

THE UPDATE

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The goal of our monthly update is to provide information on timely matters that may impact your practice and professional interests.



REDUCING HIGHWAY FATALITIES THRU NETWORKS

After years of concentrating on crash management, automobile manufacturers in the U.S., Japan and Sweden are now in agreement that accident prevention technologies may offer a better alternative in reducing driving fatalities. The U.S. Department of Transportation is reportedly spending \$50 million to research smart highways that would employ GPS satellites and dedicated short range communication systems to broadcast relevant information to drivers and link vehicles together in a wireless local area network. Necessary hardware including a radio transceiver board, antenna and wiring would cost approximately \$50 per car and outfitting "smart highways" with electronic intelligence would similarly be low in cost. It is expected to become standard in mid-to high end vehicles .



DESTINATION ELEVATORS SMARTER AND FASTER

Workers at 38 floor One Federal Street in Boston are getting to their offices faster due to the \$4 million destination elevators recently installed. Their 23 destination elevators travel faster and more efficiently because each elevator services only certain floors thereby reducing waiting time by minimizing stops, The system originally developed by Schindler Elevator Corp. utilizes artificial intelligence and complex computer algorithms to monitor traffic flow and automatically adjust to heavier or lighter usage throughout each day.



PLUG-IN HYBRIDS SEEM TO MAKE BETTER SENSE

The concept behind plug-in hybrid cars is to employ larger batteries to enable motorists to drive

exclusively on electricity for the first 60 to 70 miles. Owners would recharge the battery through an electrical outlet and an on-board gasoline engine would allow travel beyond that range. Supporters of plug-in hybrids have noted that if gasoline is priced at \$2.50 per gallon, a vehicle getting 20 miles per gallon costs 12.5 cents to operate as compared to a car that goes 4 miles on a kilowatt-hour would cost a little over 2 cents per mile to operate.



FIX FOR RESTORING FL EVERGLADES IN THE PIPELINE

Although Lake Okeechobee in Florida has too much water, it is so polluted that letting the excess water flow into the Everglades would be detrimental. Consequently the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is now actively considering the construction of a pipeline that would divert lake water to the canals of western Miami-Dade County. The pipeline is now estimated to cost in excess of \$ 1 billion, extend more than 30 miles , be placed in a pre-existing canal earmarked for filling in and could help revive a significant portion of the Everglades.

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