



Media Contact

Kathi Driggs, IOM

Deputy Executive Director | COO

kdriggs@ite.org

202.785.0060 ext 112

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ITE Statement on FCC's Plan for "Modernizing the 5.9 GHz Band"

Washington, D.C. -- Yesterday, October 28, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released material on "Modernizing the 5.9 GHz Band" that clearly articulates a plan to repurpose 45 megahertz of the 5.850-5.9250 GHz band (the Safety Band), currently set aside for transportation safety, for unlicensed, non-transportation safety use. In proposing these actions, the FCC has ignored input, advice, and recommendations from the U.S Department of Transportation, all 50 State Departments of Transportation, and dozens of national organizations—including ITE—that are devoted to improving safety on U.S. roadways, and support continued use of the full Safety Band for transportation safety purposes.

"ITE strongly opposes the actions planned by the FCC to give away the majority of the Safety Spectrum," said Jeff Paniati, ITE Executive Director and CEO. "These actions will largely undo two decades of progress involving public agencies, the automotive industry, safety advocates, and others to use the Safety Spectrum to reduce fatalities and injuries caused by traffic crashes. We strongly encourage the FCC to pause its planned actions and reconsider its planned approach."

The FCC material released on October 28, 2020 can be found at

<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-367827A1.pdf>.

About ITE

Founded in 1930, ITE is a community of transportation professionals including, transportation engineers, transportation planners, educators, policymakers, technologists, solution providers, and researchers with equal representation from the public and private sectors. Through meetings, seminars, publications, and a network of more than 16,000 members working in more than 70 countries, ITE connects you to a world of ideas, people, and resources. For more information, visit www.ite.org.

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