ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS  
Thursday, September 5, 1991

RURAL ROADS AND STREETS ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Chairperson

Patsy Anderson  
Associate Director—Technology Exchange  
Kentucky Transportation Center

Speakers

Commercial Drivers’ Licensing

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President  
CARGO

Sgt. William R. Dodson  
CDL Coordinator  
Kentucky State Police

Storm Water Run-off and Drainage

Mary E. Robson  
Environmental Engineer  
Commonwealth Technology, Inc.

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KENTUCKY COMMERCIAL DRIVERS' LICENSE PROGRAM

Sgt. William R. Dodson

On behalf of the Kentucky State Police Driver Testing Section, it is my pleasure to speak today about Kentucky's Commercial Drivers' License program. I will give you a brief overview of license classification, where Kentucky stands compared to other states, and the need of the program to have applicants apply now to avoid the rush period that will occur in January of 1992.

The Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986 requires all commercial motor vehicle operators to successfully pass a vision, knowledge, and skills test prior to obtaining a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). A commercial motor vehicle operator is anyone driving a vehicle whose gross vehicle weight rating is 26,001 or more pounds, or designed to transport 16 or more passengers including the driver, or transports hazardous materials as federally placarded. If a person does not operate a vehicle as defined, he does not need to apply for a commercial license. The only persons exempt from having a Commercial Driver's License are farmers, fire fighters, and other emergency operators, operators of military vehicles, and recreational vehicle drivers.

"Grandfather" provisions in the law allow for the waiver of the skills test prior to receiving the commercial license. To qualify, the applicant must have been regularly employed for the previous two years, not been convicted of more than one serious moving traffic violation, and have no record of any license suspensions in the previous two years.

Kentucky will not begin issuing commercial licenses until October 1991. A person, however, may apply to take the knowledge and vision test now at the local Circuit Court Clerk's office. An applicant must present to the Circuit Court Clerk a valid Kentucky license, a completed License Application, Employer Certification Form, and a D.O.T. Medical Certificate.

Sergeant William R. Dodson is the Commercial Driver License Coordinator for the Kentucky State Police. Sgt. Dodson has 23 years of service with the State Police, the last six years in the Driver Testing Section.
The License Application and Employer Certification forms have been sent to all Kentucky motor carriers registered with the Kentucky Division of Motor Carriers in Frankfort. If an employer does not have these forms, a candidate may obtain them at circuit court clerk's offices in Kentucky. A Medical Certificate is required of all commercial drivers driving interstate or intrastate. If an applicant does not currently have the Medical Certificate, he should make arrangements with a physician and have an examination as outlined in 49 C.F.R. 391 as soon as possible.

If a person decides to apply for the CDL test now, he will be required to submit an application and testing fee to the clerk at which time he will be instructed on when the tests will be given. Test scores will be stored and the person will be notified after October 1, 1991 to return to the clerk's office to pick up the license. If information is received that an applicant is suspended in any other state or holds another state's license, he will not be eligible to receive a CDL.

Anyone with questions about the CDL licensing program may contact the Kentucky State Police at 800-542-5990 or the Division of Driver Licensing at 502-564-7633.