

TIPS ON TRIPS



Avoiding Traffic Jams

(NAPSA)—If you plan on hitting the road anytime soon, chances are you'll have some company. According to the Texas Transportation Institute's annual Urban Mobility Report, traffic jams are costing travelers 3.5 billion hours a year, up from 700 million two decades ago.

Many of the U.S.'s traffic problems can be attributed to road infrastructure work and improvements. The key, experts say, is finding a way to know where the work is being done—and the jams will be—while you're on the road.

Planning Ahead

Take a few moments to read up on local events in the areas you plan to drive through. Learn where crowds of people—and cars—will be and try to find routes that help you steer clear of those areas. It's also a good idea to talk to people you may know in areas you plan to drive through to see if you can pick up any local knowledge about traffic trouble spots.

High-Tech Hints

Travelers can use aftermarket navigational systems such as "Real Time Traffic" from Audiovox to receive driving directions and localized traffic updates every two minutes (the updates are even more frequent in "traffic-challenged" areas such as New York City). The system has 22 different traffic icons to describe changing traffic conditions. After warning of a traffic jam, it provides suggestions and directions to the closest alternate routes. The technology can be used in conjunction with the company's Navigation Rear-View Mirrors, which are LCD



Some navigational systems can help drivers avoid traffic jams.

screens built into your rearview mirror that become virtually invisible when not in use.

Be Prepared

Being stuck in traffic with the family can be a little easier if you are prepared. Audiovox makes a vehicle-specific, dual custom headrest system with built-in DVD players that can help keep the kids entertained. To use the product, people simply remove their current headrests, install the replacement headrests and wire them for power. The headrests have seven-inch LCD screens on their back side and are designed to blend in with a vehicle's existing interior. It's also smart to bring along some snacks that are easy to eat in the car. Try bringing dry cereal or vegetable sticks. Also, don't forget to bring along bottled water or juice boxes. It may seem like extra packing, but if you do end up sitting in traffic, chances are you'll be glad you planned ahead.

For more information, visit www.audiovox.com.