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(54) **Temperature-responsively operated drive mechanism**

(57) A temperature-responsively operated drive mechanism 29 is designed to provide a switching drive force to switching-type indicating means 10 placed on a freeze-indicating sign system. The temperature-responsively operated drive mechanism 29 includes members 35 and 36 made of a shape memory alloy for providing the switching drive force to the switching-type indicating means 10 in accordance with a temperature such as a predetermined temperature, and a drive force assisting means 50 for providing an assist force for assisting in the switching drive force during switching op-

eration of the members made 35 and 36 of the shape memory alloy. Therefore, the speed of switching turning movement of the switching-type indicating means 10 in the freeze-indicating sign system can be increased, whereby the switching of the indications on the switching-type indicating means 10 at the predetermined temperature corresponding to a freezing temperature can be conducted quickly and automatically, thereby informing a driver or a road manager or the like of the freezing of a road surface occurring in winter season.

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		7 October 2003	Créchet, P
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
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Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 7 October 2003	Examiner Créchet, P
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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