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(54) **Vehicle information system**

(57) A vehicle information system comprises a series of transmitters 10, located at intervals along a track or road and mounted in or on existing road structures such as cat's eyes, street lights or the like. In association each of said transmitters 10 there is provided a vehicle detection device 12 for detecting a vehicle on the track or road as it approaches or passes the transmitter unit, a data storage device 14 and a proximity sensor 16.

A receiver module 18 is provided in or on a vehicle 20 and comprises a receiver 22, a decoder 24 for decoding or interpreting signals received from a transmitter 10 by the receiver 22, and a display device 26 for displaying received information.

The storage device 14 associated with each of the transmitters 10 stores permanent information relating to the stretch of track or road by or on which the transmitter 10 is located, such as a warning that there is a sharp bend in the road ahead and that the speed limit on the road at the bend is reduced. Each of the transmitter

modules may also be arranged to determine and transmit information relating to non-permanent and non-foreseeable events, such as the presence of a queue of stationary or very slow moving vehicles on the associated stretch of track or road.

In use, a vehicle detection device 12 detects the presence of a vehicle as it approaches or passes the associated transmitter module. When a vehicle is detected, the permanent information stored in the storage device 14 is retrieved and transmitted to the receiver 22 in the vehicle 20 and displayed on the display device 26 to the vehicle driver. Further, if a queue of slow moving traffic or other obstruction has been detected by the transmitter modules along the stretch of track or road under consideration, such information is also transmitted to the receiver module 18 in the vehicle 20 for display to the driver.



European Patent  
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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 02 25 7794

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 20 October 2003	Examiner Flores Jiménez, A
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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