

Roadside Radio Smooths Traffic Flow

Ever been snarled in airport traffic while your plane takes off? At Los Angeles International Airport they're testing a new roadway radio system to minimize traffic tieups. As you drive toward the airport, you tune your AM car radio to 530.

You'll hear special control-tower broadcasts to smooth your touch-down: local traffic and parking-lot conditions, airport layout, safety tips, or rent-a-car return advice. Personnel in the broadcast room are kept up to date by security officials and a remote-control TV camera.

Radio signals are transmitted from unique coaxial-cable antennas buried in medians along some three miles of airport roads. The cable, invented by stereo-FM pioneer William Halstead, leaks radio waves like water from a lawn-sprinkler hose.

RTV International, Inc., the New York communications firm that installed apparatus for the two-year experiment, predicts use of buried cable in other high-density traffic areas. In Miami, a buried cable has replaced some speakers at a drive-in movie theater.—*John Free*

Operators monitor Los Angeles airport road traffic on TV while broadcasting taped messages. Radio signals from limited-range cable antennas like one below can be tuned in only by motorists in area.

