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Use of Electronic Citation Expanded in Alabama

MONTGOMERY, Ala. –Chief Justice Drayton Nabers, Jr., Alabama Supreme Court and Colonel Mike Coppage, Department of Public Safety today announce an extension and expansion of a successful two year pilot project to deploy an electronic citation for use in the criminal justice and traffic safety communities of the State of Alabama.

The project has been coordinated through Judy Van Luchene, the Alabama Division Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and funded by her agency.

E-citation was developed by the *CARE* Research & Development Laboratory (CRDL) at The University of Alabama under the direction of Dr. Allen Parrish. E-citation is an electronic citation application and ticketing process that allows law enforcement officers to send tickets such as speeding violations electronically to the Administrative Office of Courts. The officers use a driver's license scanner and a laptop with a printer in the car. The data from the license scan immediately fills in most of the e-citation. The remainder of the form can be completed quickly and easily using drop down boxes. The officer then prints a hardcopy of the ticket to give to the driver but transmits the ticket electronically to the Administrative Office of Courts. The AOC can transmit the data back out to the District Courts so there is never a need for hand data entry of the ticket.

E-citation was initially piloted at the Alabama Department of Transportation trucking weigh station in Heflin, Ala. in 2003. For Phase 2, the project expanded to the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) state troopers in four counties and then to seven counties. "Our troopers have been asking for the project to be expanded. E-citation increases their efficiency and productivity so it in essence is a way to greatly multiply our short-handed force" says Colonel Coppage of DPS.

Chief Justice Nabers agrees that the program has proven itself enough to warrant statewide expansion. "I see no reason not to expand the program. It is great for our state to be on the forefront of this technology. This is just one of several projects we support as we seek to improve our criminal justice system in Alabama" said Nabers.

Following necessary Supreme Court rule changes, the project will be deployed statewide in early 2005.

There will be a press conference to announce statewide expansion of e-citation including a demonstration of the e-citation process on December 16, 2004 at 10:00 am by Chief Justice Nabers, Colonel Coppage, and Ms. Van Luchene at the Alabama Judicial Building, Montgomery, AL (Street side near corner of Dexter Avenue and Hull Street).

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