

### **VIDEOTEX FOR ROAD SAFETY**

Although the applications of videotex are practically limitless, a new twist has been discovered by the Province of British Columbia.

It is using NAPLPS videotex technology to test drivers.

With the approval of the government, two British Columbia-based companies have produced an electronic testing capability which combines colourful Telidon graphics with computer-aided testing techniques.

Using videotex, the government can test a driver's general knowledge of laws of the road and adapt the test to the person's level of knowledge.

When a driver signs in at a terminal, text appears on the screen explaining the test and giving instructions.

Full-colour NAPLPS graphics present a situation. A question then appears, followed by multiple-choice answers.

The driver is instructed to choose one and enter the appropriate number on the keyboard. If the answer is wrong, the computer prompts the user until he or she gets it right.

In the meantime, the computer is busy choosing the next question from an item bank of several thousands of questions prepared by professionals.

When the driver chooses an answer, he is placing himself on a knowledge scale. The computer, using latent-trait test algorithms,

