

Pirkko Rämä, Merja Penttinen: Sääohjatun tien jatke: vaikutustutkimus. [The extension of the weather controlled road: the effects on driver behavior]. Kouvola 1998. Finnish National Road Administration, Kaakkois-Suomi region. 7 p.

**Keywords:** telematics, traffic control, control systems, variable message sign, Intelligent transport system

## **ABSTRACT**

The extension of the weather controlled road between Kotka and Pyhtää was introduced in December 1997. The system includes weather controlled traffic control and a telematic traffic management system.

The extension of weather controlled road consists of three different sections: freeway of two carriageways, freeway of one carriageway and mixed traffic rural road. The control system includes three automatic road weather stations, 31 variable speed limit signs and 8 warning and information displays. This study covers the mixed traffic rural road.

The aim of the study was to investigate how the weather-controlled system influences the drivers. In addition, the reliability and cost-effectiveness were under interest.

The before data was collected between 1<sup>st</sup> March 1997 and 31<sup>st</sup> November 1997. Speed and headway data were obtained from detector loops. The road weather data and status of variable signs were recorded at the control centre. The road surface judgements based on the road weather station data were compared with the manual observations of the road surface conditions and friction measurements. The after data collection continues.

The study has been granted European Community financial aid in the field of Trans-European Networks-Transport.