

**The Vehicle Information and Communication System—
creating a more affluent mobile society.**

*Vehicle
Information
and
Communication
System*

vics

**VICS supports drivers in
relaxed and safe driving.**

VICS

Vehicle Information and Communication System

The VICS system aims at improving convenience for drivers by offering following three advantages. First, VICS makes it possible to cut costs by shortening the time required for transportation. Second, VICS improves road safety by providing accurate information. Third, VICS helps to protect the environment by streamlining traffic. The objective of the VICS system is to create a higher standard of living, and contribute to social and economic development by offering these advantages.

Eliminating traffic congestion, reducing traffic accidents, and improving road environment are challenges faced by every nation in the modern world. VICS addresses these concerns by enabling drivers to select the shortest, most convenient routes available and ensuring that traffic is dispersed appropriately. VICS is being utilized successfully as a system for improving road safety and traffic flow, making roads more driver-friendly.

Benefits of VICS

- Avoid traffic congestion en-route**
- Shorten travel time**
- Reduce driving-related stress**
- Can be used throughout the country
24 hours a day, 365 days a year**

VICS information

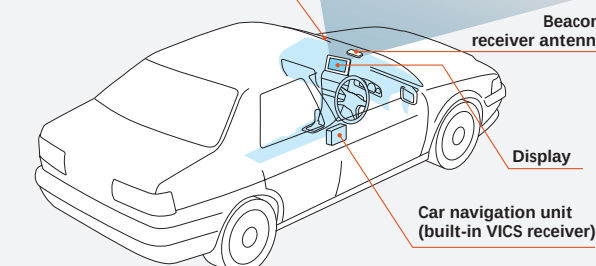
- Traffic congestion**
- Travel time**
- Location of accidents and roadwork**
- Speed limits and lane regulations**
- Parking lot locations and availability**

■ To receive VICS information

VICS-compatible car navigation units can be purchased at locations such as car dealers, car parts and electronics stores.

FM multiplex reception antenna
(film antenna type)

(Screen example)



VICS is made up of 4 functions to provide drivers with

1

Collecting Information

Systematically collects road and traffic information.

Road Administrators

Prefectural Police Headquarters

Japan Road Traffic Information Center

Road and traffic information

2

Processing and Editing Information

Processes and edits the information collected.

VICS Center

The VICS Center processes and edits information to provide real-time road traffic information to car navigation systems using the three types of media shown in Section 3. The information is displayed clearly using the three types of display shown in Section 4.



VICS Center (Monitor Room)

3

Providing Information

Transmits processed information to car navigation units.

The VICS Center provides VICS information 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to the entire country using the three types of media shown below.

VICS information is available to anyone using a VICS-compatible car navigation system.

Radio wave Beacons (expressways)



These beacons are installed mainly on expressways, providing road traffic information in a range of approximately 200km ahead of the car.

- Travel time information up to the next interchange.
- Congestion information and turnoff guidance (including the main ordinary roads that run alongside)
- Information on restrictions due to accidents, disabled car, construction, disasters, and weather conditions (road blocked, lane regulations, speed limits, chain regulations, etc.)

Infrared Beacons (ordinary trunk roads)



These beacons are installed on main ordinary roads, providing road traffic information as far as 30km ahead of, and 1km behind the car.

- Traffic congestion and travel time information.
- Information on restrictions due to accidents, construction, disasters, and weather conditions (road blocked, lane regulations, chain regulations, etc.)
- Parking availability.

FM Multiplex Broadcasting (NHK local FM multiplex broadcasting stations)



FM multiplex broadcasting provides road traffic information in the relevant prefecture and its surroundings from the local NHK FM broadcasting stations.

- Traffic congestion and travel time information.
- Information on restrictions due to accidents, construction, disasters, and weather conditions.
- Parking lot locations and availability.



with faster, more accurate and much more information.

4

Utilizing Information

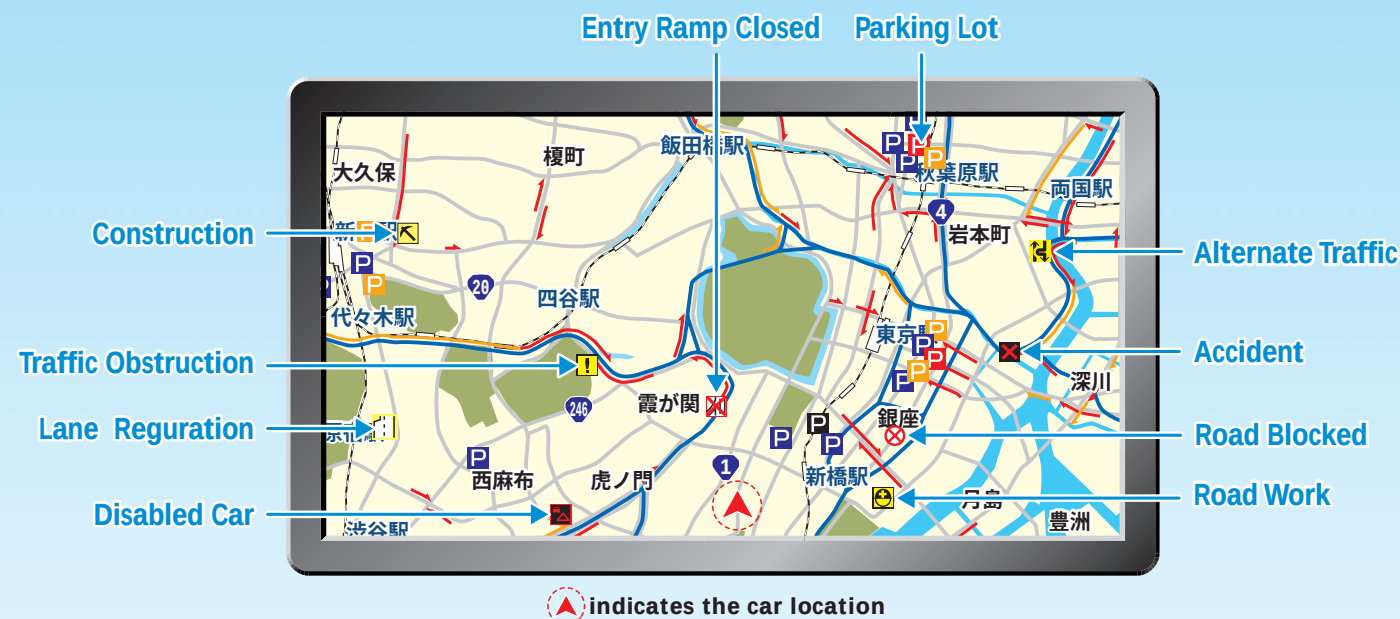
Three ways of displaying information.

VICS provides three kinds of displays in real time depending on the type of car navigation unit: ❶ Map Display (Level 3), ❷ Simple Graphic Display (Level 2), ❸ Text Display (Level 1). The information received will vary according to the car location and the capabilities of the car navigation unit.

★The displays shown below are just examples, the actual displays might differ.

Map Display (Called Level 3)

This map display overlays VICS information about traffic congestion, etc. onto car navigation system maps. Drivers can see road and traffic information on their current location that allows them to avoid congestion and select the shortest route to their destination.



Contents Displayed

● Congestion Information

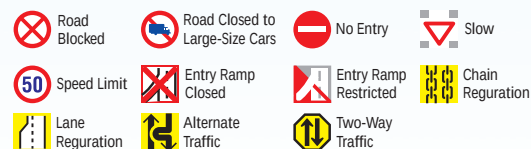
Heavy congestion is indicated by a red arrow, and light congestion is indicated by an orange arrow. The length of an arrow represents the distance of the congested road blocks.

Degree of congestion		Ordinary road	Inner-city expressway	Inter-city expressway
Heavy Congestion	Red arrow	less than 10km/h	less than 20km/h	less than 40km/h
Light Congestion	Orange arrow	10km/h to 20km/h	20km/h to 40km/h	40km/h to 60km/h
Smooth Traffic	Green arrow	more than 20km/h	more than 40km/h	more than 60km/h

The car navigation system's default setting for display of "Smooth traffic" is generally "OFF"

● Information on Traffic Restrictions

These icons indicate blocked roads, speed limits, lane regulations, etc.



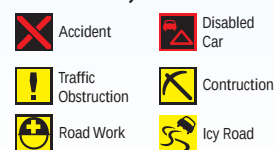
● Information on Parking Lots

These icons indicate the locations of parking lots and service areas, showing by colors if it's available or not, and what kind of facilities they have.



● Information on Traffic Hazards

These icons indicate accidents, disabled cars, traffic obstructions, constructions, etc.



Detailed information on restrictions and hazards can be found.

Detailed information can be found by clicking on a VICS icon, such as restrictions or hazards, using the car navigation system's touch panel or remote controller.



Detailed parking lot information is provided.

Detailed information is displayed by clicking on a P icon using the car navigation system's touch panel or remote controller.



Simple Graphic Display (Called Level 2)

VICS information is displayed in simple graphic form on the monitor of the car navigation unit. The main feature of this type of display is that information is shown in simple, graphic patterns or text.

Beacons (display road traffic information in the direction of travel from the driver's current location.)

● Ordinary Roads (Fukuoka area)



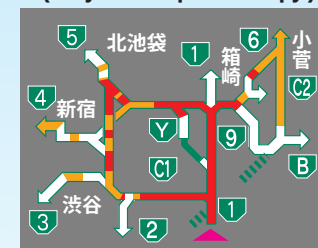
● Ordinary Roads (Sapporo area)



● Inter-City Expressway (Tomei Expressway)



● Inner-City Expressway (Tokyo Metropolitan Expy.)



Text Display (Called Level 1)

VICS information is displayed in text form on the monitor of the car navigation unit. Information is provided clearly and briefly using short phrases.

Beacons

● Ordinary Roads (Tokyo area)

新宿通り上り 四谷見附付近
渋滞 0.5 KM

靖国通り東行き 九段坂上→
神保町 渋滞 1.0 KM

● Inter-City Expressway (Tomei Expressway)

御殿場→裾野 事故渋滞 5km

11km先→横浜町田出口
渋滞 7km

FM Multiplex Broadcasting

● Ordinary Roads (Osaka area)



● Inter-City Expressway (Chuo Expressway)



▲: Disabled Car ▲: Lane Regulation

FM Multiplex Broadcasting

● Ordinary Roads (Miyagi area)

VICSみやぎ (01/09) 08:35
国道48号下り 車線規制
作並→本町3丁目

● Inter-City Expressway (Tomei Expressway)

VICSとうきょう (03/08) 09:24
東名 下り 事故
東名川崎IC→東京IC 車線規制



The three hearts of the VICs logo mark represent...

- real-time information
- peace of mind
- safety for drivers and vehicles

and the hope for relaxed and safe driving

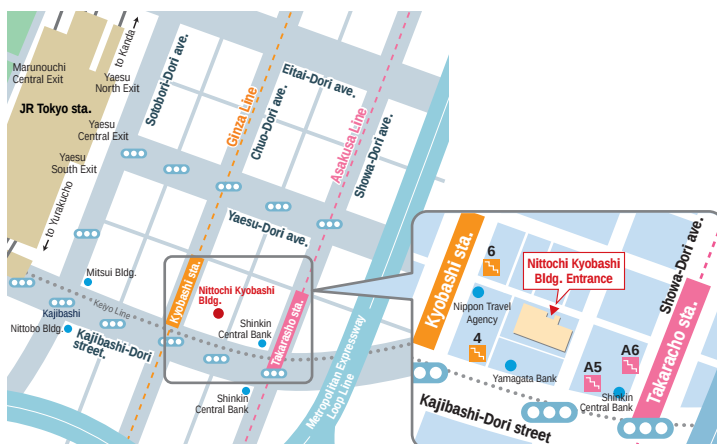
Vehicle Information and Communication System Center (VICs Center)

8th Floor, Nittochi Kyobashi Bldg.

2-5-7, Kyobashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, 104-0031

Phone : 81-3-3562-1720 FAX : 81-3-3562-1719

<http://www.vics.or.jp>



Safety Notes

- Please confirm information on the display screen as quickly as possible, only taking your eyes off the road instantaneously.
- Please stop your vehicle in a safe place before carrying out complicated operations.