

Message from the Workshop Chairs: Intelligent Transportation System Workshop

Six years back the yellow taxi in New York City may not have anticipated their competition would be from a four lettered start-up that does not own any cars. Apple had released its 4th generation iPhone at that time. And the number of apps available on App store doubled in the first half of 2010. Yet no one could have anticipated the growth of app-based taxi services in the last six years. Today the New York City taxi continues to serve almost 3 out of every 4 taxi trips; yet the price of a NYC medallion has halved from \$1.3 million in 2013 to now. Perhaps in anticipation of the downward trend. Worldwide city taxi operators are facing the heat from Uber and other ride hailing services.

Looking ahead, six years from today one may not be surprised to see that the car that pulled up behind at a traffic signal does not have a human driver behind the wheel. Most commercial car manufacturers have set-up research centers to expedite the commercial launch of autonomous vehicles. The latest competition is between the giants of the auto industry with the giants of the IT industry. Transportation is the new battleground and the key to the battle lies in rapid innovation that drives down costs without compromising on safety.

These are exciting times to be working in the field of transportation. We are excited to co-chair the third installment of the ITS workshop. We plan to arrive at the conference venue hailing a ride using an app and we truly wish by the tenth installment of the workshop we would be chauffeured in a car without a driver.

Aditya: Can we still use the word chauffeured in this case?

Gita: Don't know man. But I am sure we will have it figured out by then.

Happy driving till then!



Aditya Gopalan
IISc Bangalore, India



Gitakrishnan Ramadurai
IIT Madras, India