

## MESSAGE FROM COMSNETS 2018 ITS CHAIRS

We are excited to co-chair the fourth edition of the ITS Workshop as part of the COMSNETS conference. This past year has seen several important initiatives and shifts in the transport industry that could shape the future of transport. Several major auto-manufacturers including Volvo and GM have announced plans to manufacture only Electric Vehicles (EVs) in the near future. The Indian government has announced to move completely to EVs by 2030. European countries including Netherlands, Norway, and France have set different timelines for their all-EV move. Similar plans are being discussed in China – the world’s largest car market. This large-scale move towards EVs could be the biggest disrupter of the transport industry since the automobile was invented. And yet EVs are only part of the transformation that is sweeping our transport industry.

Connected and autonomous vehicles are the other major disruptions in the transport industry. Over 1.3 million people die due to road crashes every year. The single major motivation for connected and autonomous vehicles is the possibility of reducing this number drastically. Connected vehicles talk to each other and the environment, and assist drivers in making more informed driving decisions. Besides improving safety, they also enable a future where automobiles self-organise themselves into an optimal system. Congestion could be substantially reduced, if not eliminated. Autonomous vehicles also eliminate human decision making. This can further enhance the safety gains and help in congestion elimination.

Together Electric, Connected, and Autonomous vehicle could be the A-C-E up our sleeve to battle congestion, safety, and environmental problems. This workshop has two keynote speakers and one invited talk on related topics. The workshop also has several high-quality research papers on autonomous vehicles, network connectivity, transit systems planning and optimization, and sensors. We hope the ideas and discussions from the workshop will shape the next generation of these technologies in India and the world. We invite you to join the dialogue as the future of transportation beckons us.



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