



RESEARCH *THAT MOVES YOU*

Northwestern University Transportation Center

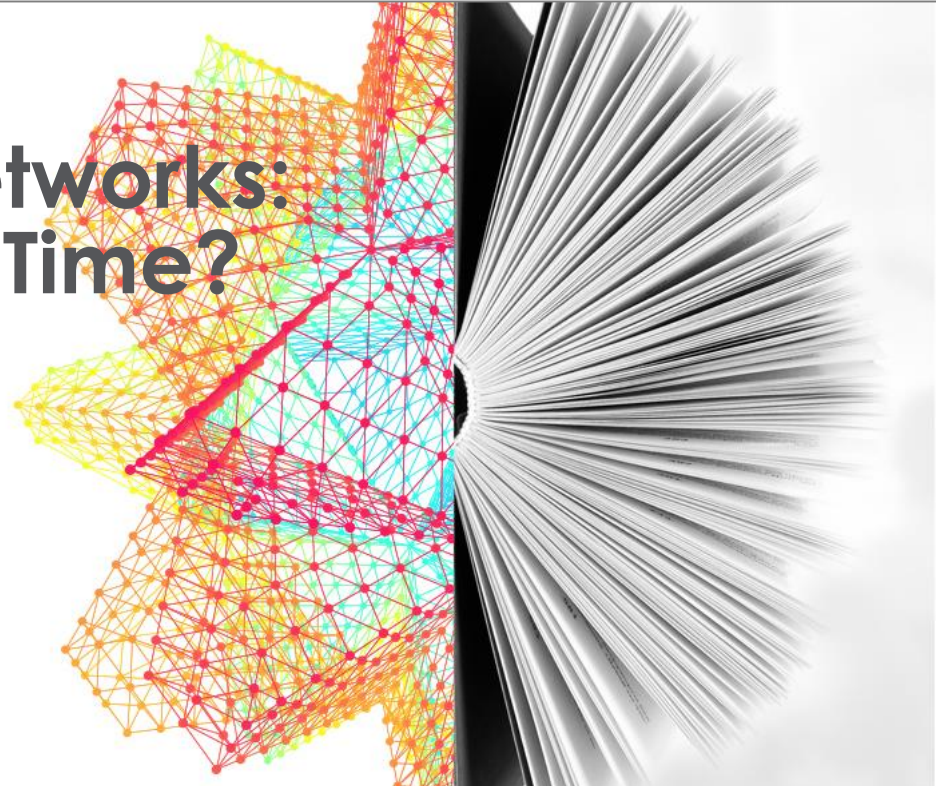
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Data. Changes. Everything.

Smart, Connected, Intelligent Mobility Networks: Why Is it Different This Time?

Hani S. Mahmassani

Northwestern University

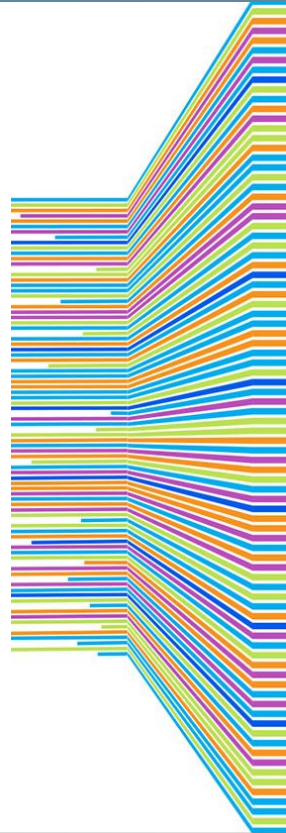


NSF Workshop on Control of Networked Transportation Systems
July 8-9, 2019; Philadelphia, PA, USA

Autonomous and Connected Vehicles

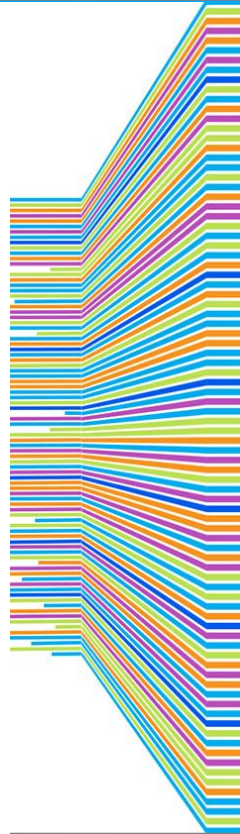
CAV systems are likely to be major game changers in traffic, mobility, and logistics.

No longer a question of if, but of when, in what form, at what rate, and through what kind of evolution path.



SEVEN Factors Affecting Future Urban Mobility

- **Personal**-- mobile computing and communication technologies capable of engaging travelers and exchanging information anywhere and anytime, best manifested through the ubiquitous smartphone;
- **Connected**-- promising a future surface transport fleet that is seamlessly connected with each other and with the infrastructure;
- **Automated**—to varying degrees in different operational environments, towards eventual full automation (NHTSA Levels 4 and 5);
- **Shared**—continuation of trend towards emerging mobility services such as ridesharing, ride-hailing (e.g. Uber) and on-demand delivery, which, powered by automation and connectivity, is poised to transform personal and freight mobility;
- **Electric**—greater adoption of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles in both person and freight movement can significantly reduce carbon impact
- **Social**-- social media that provides new opportunities to track, understand and influence human behavior towards more efficient transportation use.
- **Non-motorized**-- or motor-assisted forms of individual mobility, from walking to bicycling and mini electric scooters, there has been a resurgence in non-automotive mobility.



s. Everything.

Intelligent Transportation Systems

Convergence of location, telecommunication and automotive technologies for better transportation system safety, efficiency, and user convenience.



Drinking From A Fire Hose: Real-time Data And Transportation Decision-making

Hani S. Mahmassani
The University of Texas at Austin

UCTC Student Conference, Irvine, CA
February 2001

CONVENTIONAL WORLD

- Steady - state
- **Equilibrium**
- Static
- **Data poor**
- Uncertainty about past/ current events
- **Component level**
- Long lead time between solution and implementation
- **Limited “accountability” of decisions**
- “A priori” solutions

ITS ENVIRONMENT

- Time varying
- **Evolutionary paths**
- Dynamic
- **Data rich**
- Known past/current events (to varying degrees)
- **System level**
- Immediate action
- **Performance monitoring and feedback**
- Real-time adaptive strategies

1994

to

2019

25 YEARS--

DEPLOYMENT OF A LOT OF

TECHNOLOGY

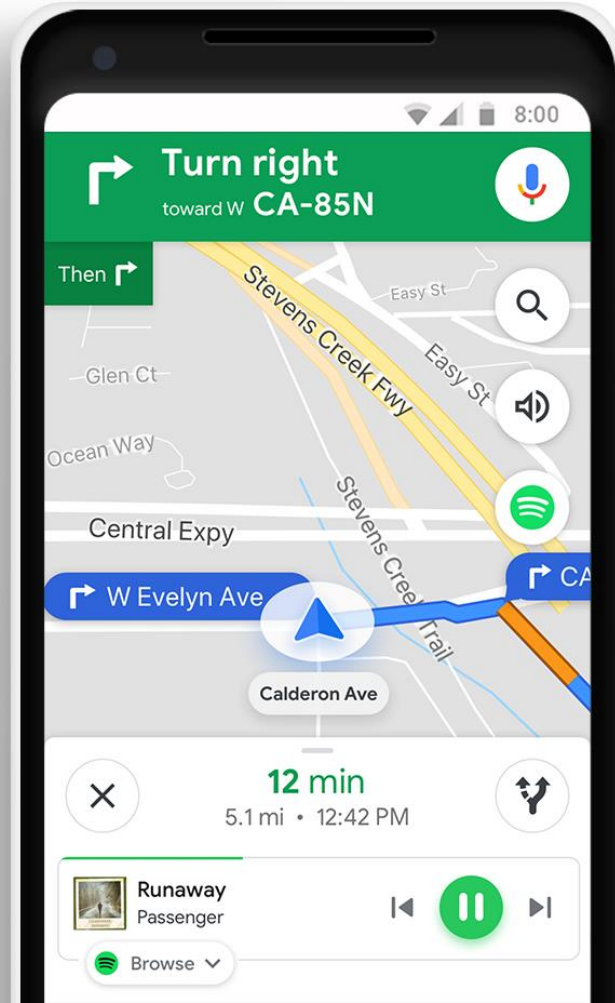
NOT AS MUCH **INTELLIGENCE**

But navigation services are freely available
to users on any smartphone—
in most cities of the world

Most with real-time travel time
information at least on major arterials

Some even with prediction

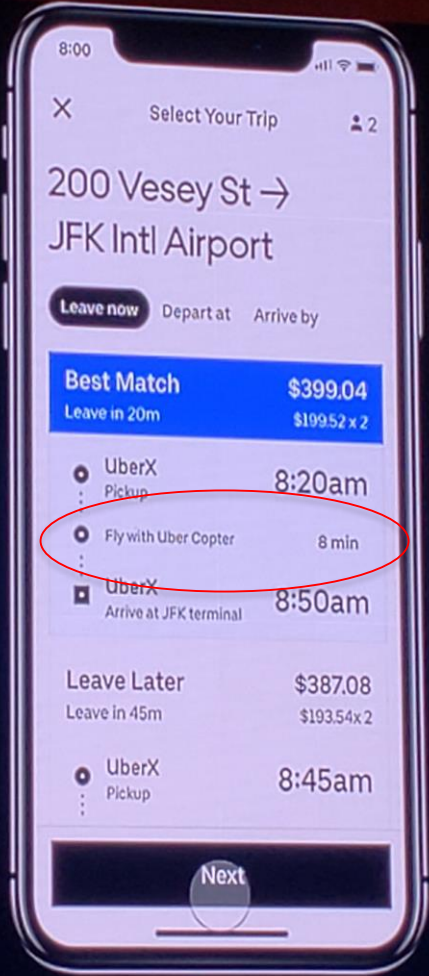
Though in nearly all cases limited to
individual, uncoordinated (“selfish”) routing



Multimodal mobility
at the push of a button



Soon to include urban
air mobility services





INTELLIGENT *VEHICLE-HIGHWAY* SYSTEMS

ITS 0.9

Vehicles
Highway infrastructure



INTELLIGENT *TRANSPORTATION* SYSTEMS

ITS 1.0

Buses, trains, multimodal services
Urban mobility

Digital 6th Sense

ITS 2.0 = CS 2.0

CONNECTED SYSTEMS



FOCUS: THE USER

Mobility as an APP in
seamless connected
environment

TWO MAIN AREAS FOR DEVELOPING TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM INTELLIGENCE

Realization I

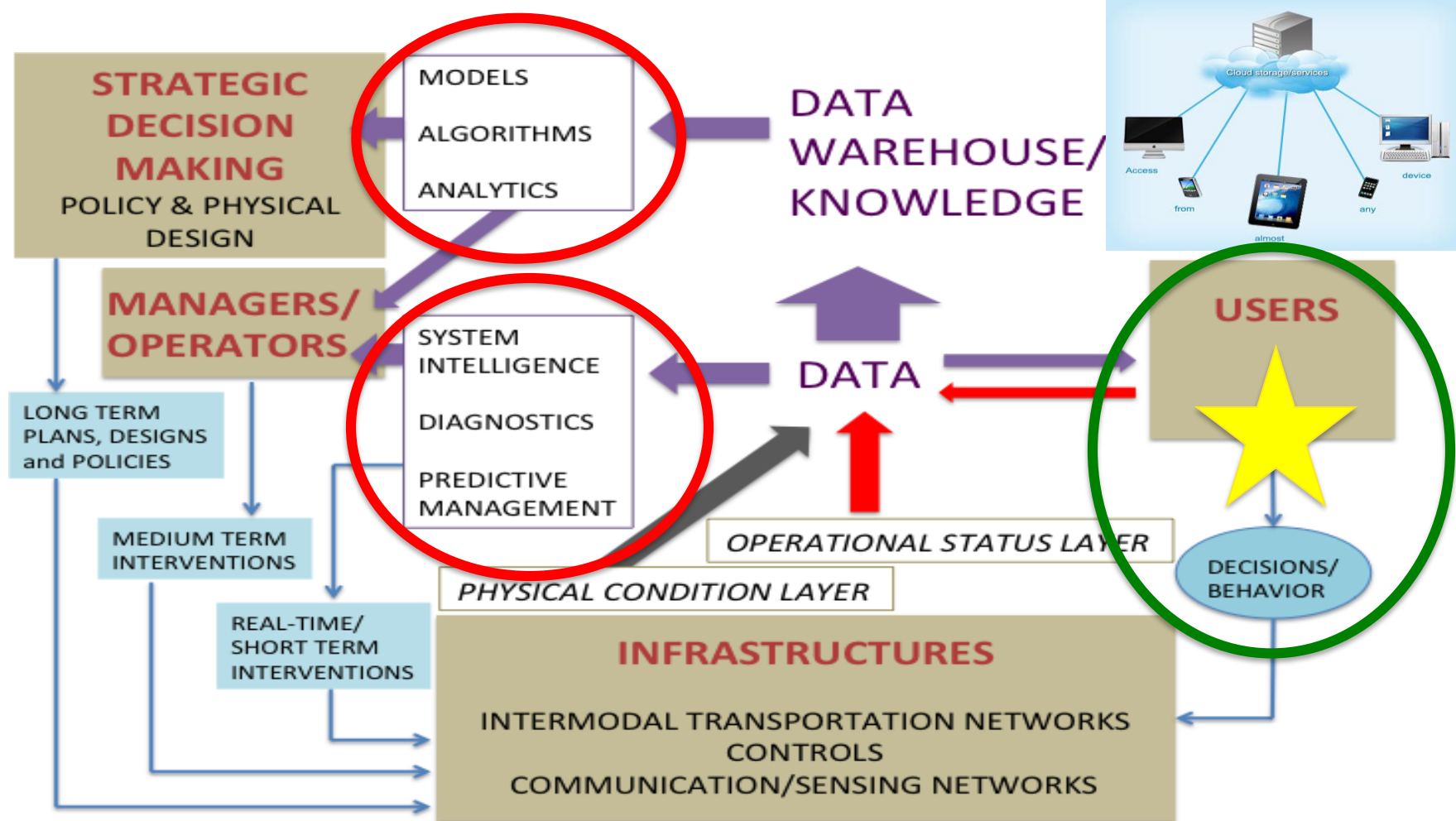
Monitor the state of the system at all times,
provides basis to intervene and apply control actions in
real-time.

*State estimation and prediction,
Online optimization*

Realization II

Eliminate or reduce individual human error, and the
system will operate more efficiently.

Autonomous and Connected Vehicles



VEHICLE TO VEHICLE COMMUNICATION

VEHICLE TO INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMUNICATION



CONNECTED VEHICLE SYSTEMS



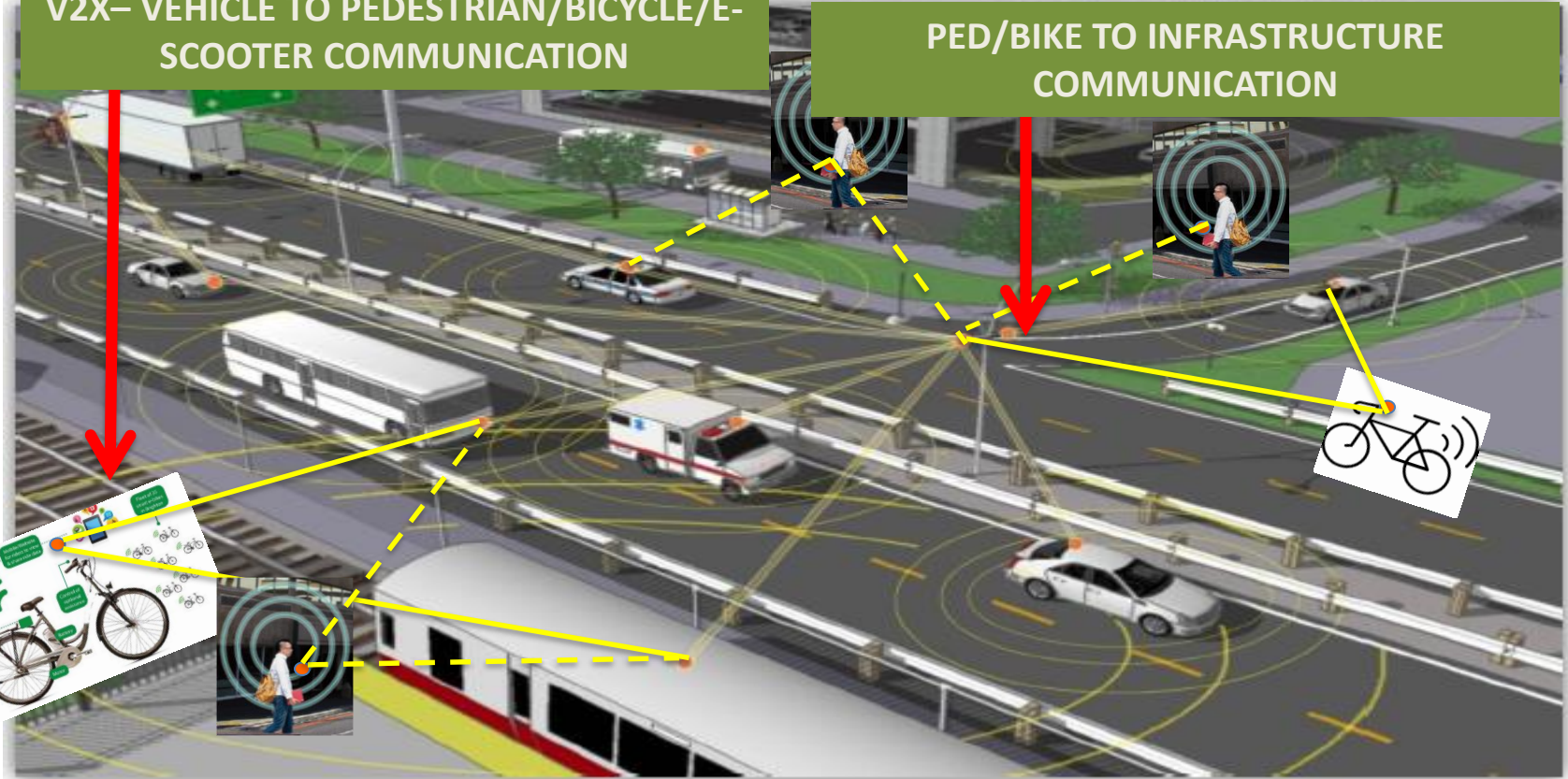
U.S. Department of Transportation

VEHICLE TO VEHICLE COMMUNICATION

V2X- VEHICLE TO PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE/E-SCOOTER COMMUNICATION

VEHICLE TO INFRASTRUCTURE COMMUNICATION

PED/BIKE TO INFRASTRUCTURE COMMUNICATION



CONNECTED MOBILITY SYSTEMS

The connected vehicle is already a mainstream reality

60%

Cellular penetration in new light
vehicles sales by 2021¹



Source:



Vision for always-connected vehicle



Highly intelligent



Always connected



Increasingly
autonomous



Highly secure



Increasingly
electric (or hybrid)



Safer—towards zero
road accidents

Greener—reduce air
pollution & emissions

More predictable and
productive travel

Vision for always-connected vehicle

Requires new levels of connectivity and intelligence

Heterogeneous connectivity

Vehicle-to-Everything
communications

Bluetooth

Connected
infotainment

Wi-Fi / Hotspot

Wireless EV
charging

Cellular 3G/4G/5G

Real-time
navigation

Always-on
telematics

CAN / Ethernet /
Powerline



On-device intelligence

Intuitive
instrumentation

Computer vision

Immersive
multimedia

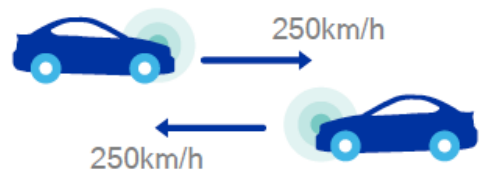
Intuitive security

Augmented
reality

Machine learning

Always-on
sensing

Overcoming the challenges of V2X communications



V2X Challenges

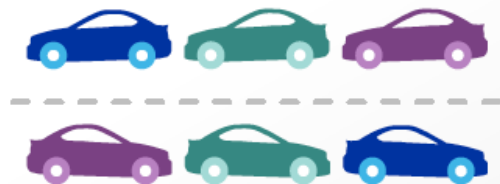
High relative speeds

Leads to significant Doppler shift / frequency offset

C-V2X Solutions

Enhanced signal design

E.g. increasing # of ref signal symbols to improve synchronization and channel estimation



High node densities

Random resource allocation results in excessive resource collisions

Enhanced transmission structure

Transmit control and data on the same sub-frame to reduce in-band emissions

More efficient resource allocation

New methods using sensing and semi-persistent resource selection



Time synchronization

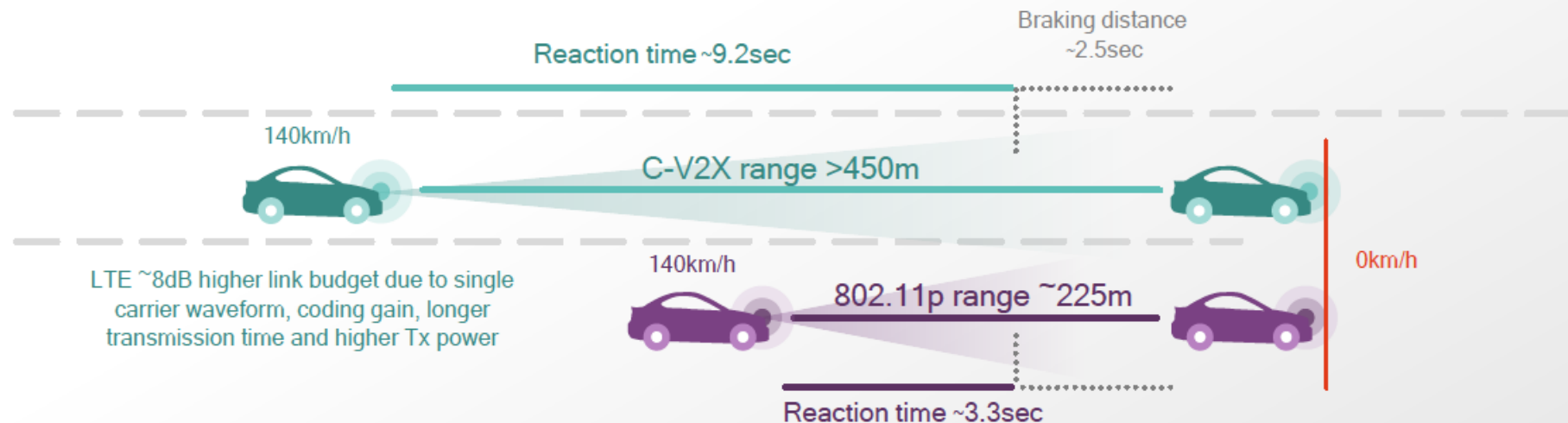
Lack of synchronization source when out-of-coverage

Allow utilization of GPS timing

Enhancements to use satellite (e.g. GNSS) when out-of-coverage

C-V2X increases reaction time over 802.11p/DSRC

For improved safety use cases - especially at high-speeds, e.g. highway



Safer driving experience

Increased driver reaction time

Support for high speeds

Relative speeds up to 500km/h

Increased situational awareness

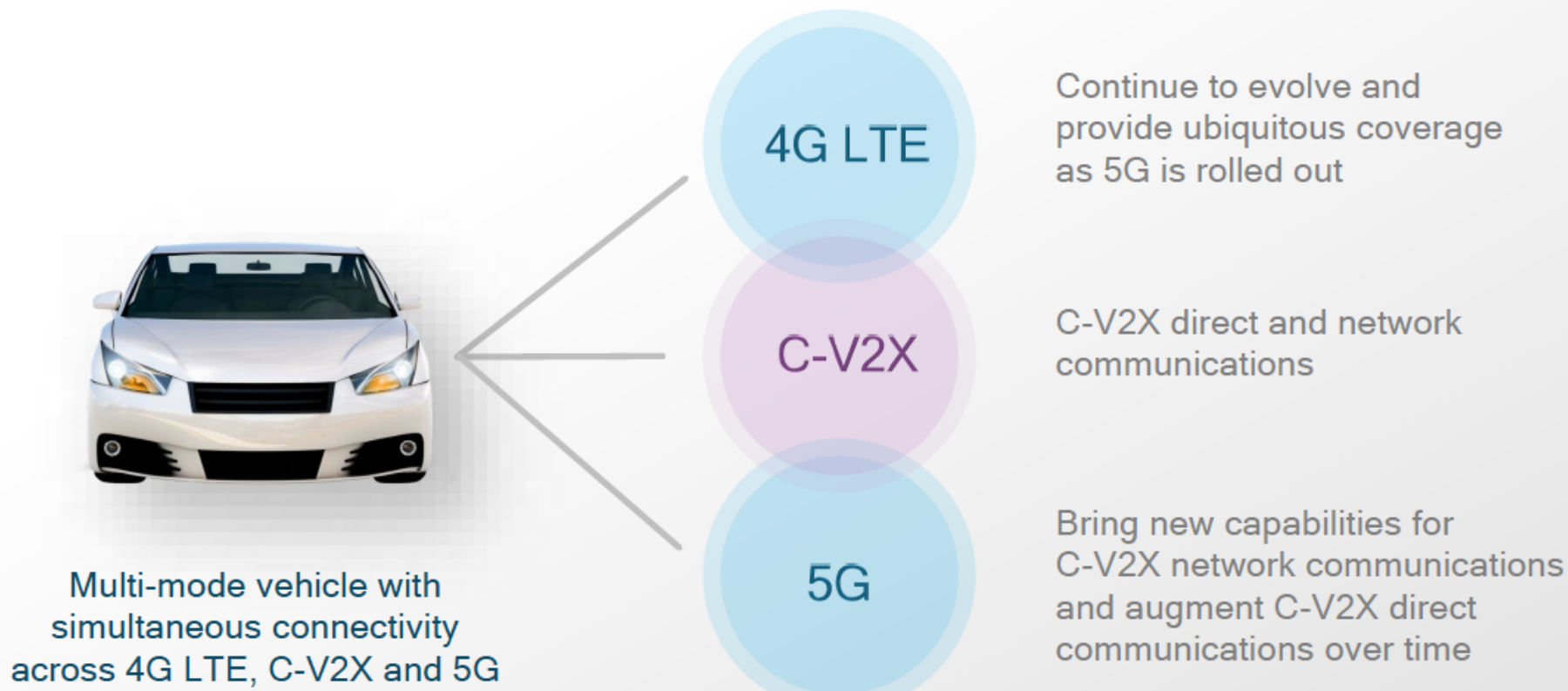
Gather data from further ahead

09/23/2009

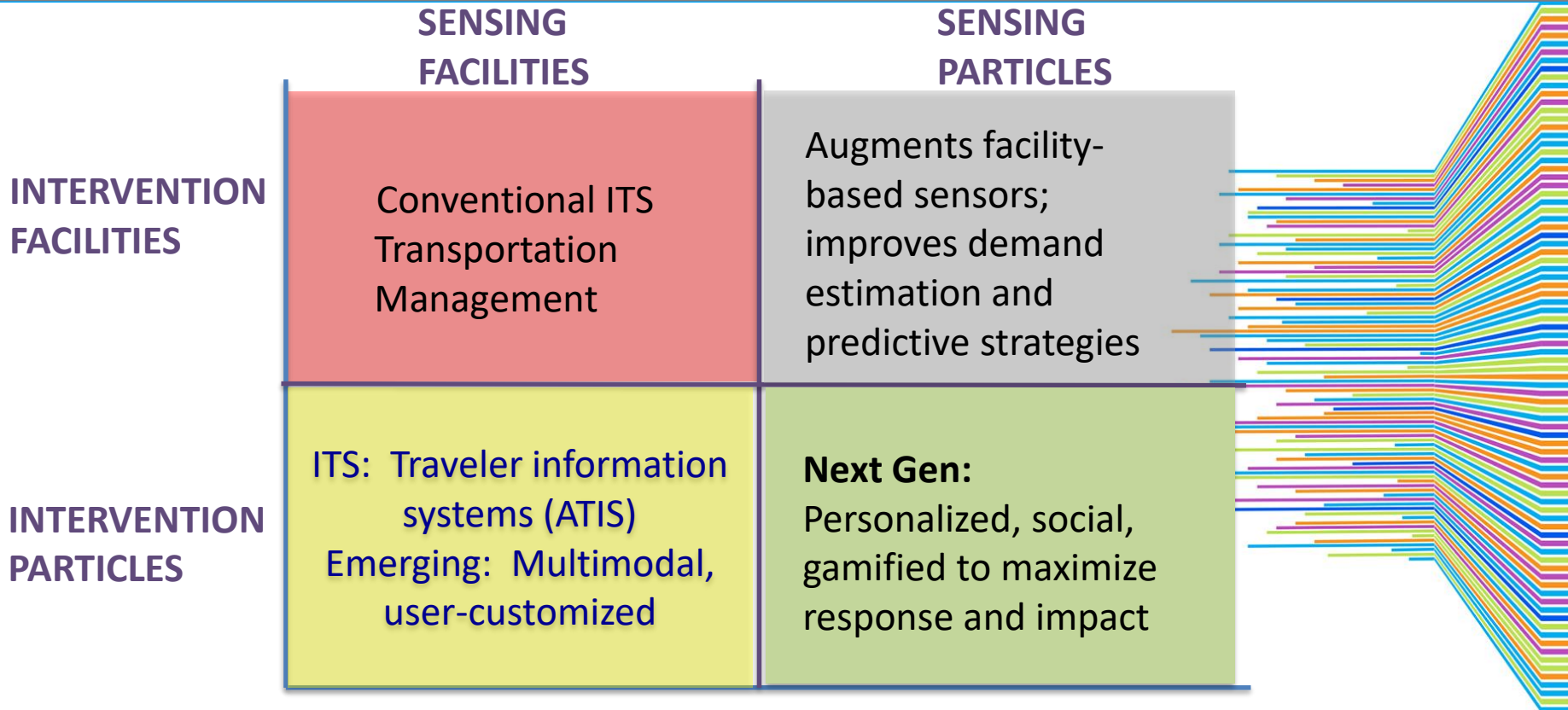
Source: **QUALCOMM**

5G will build upon and enhance C-V2X

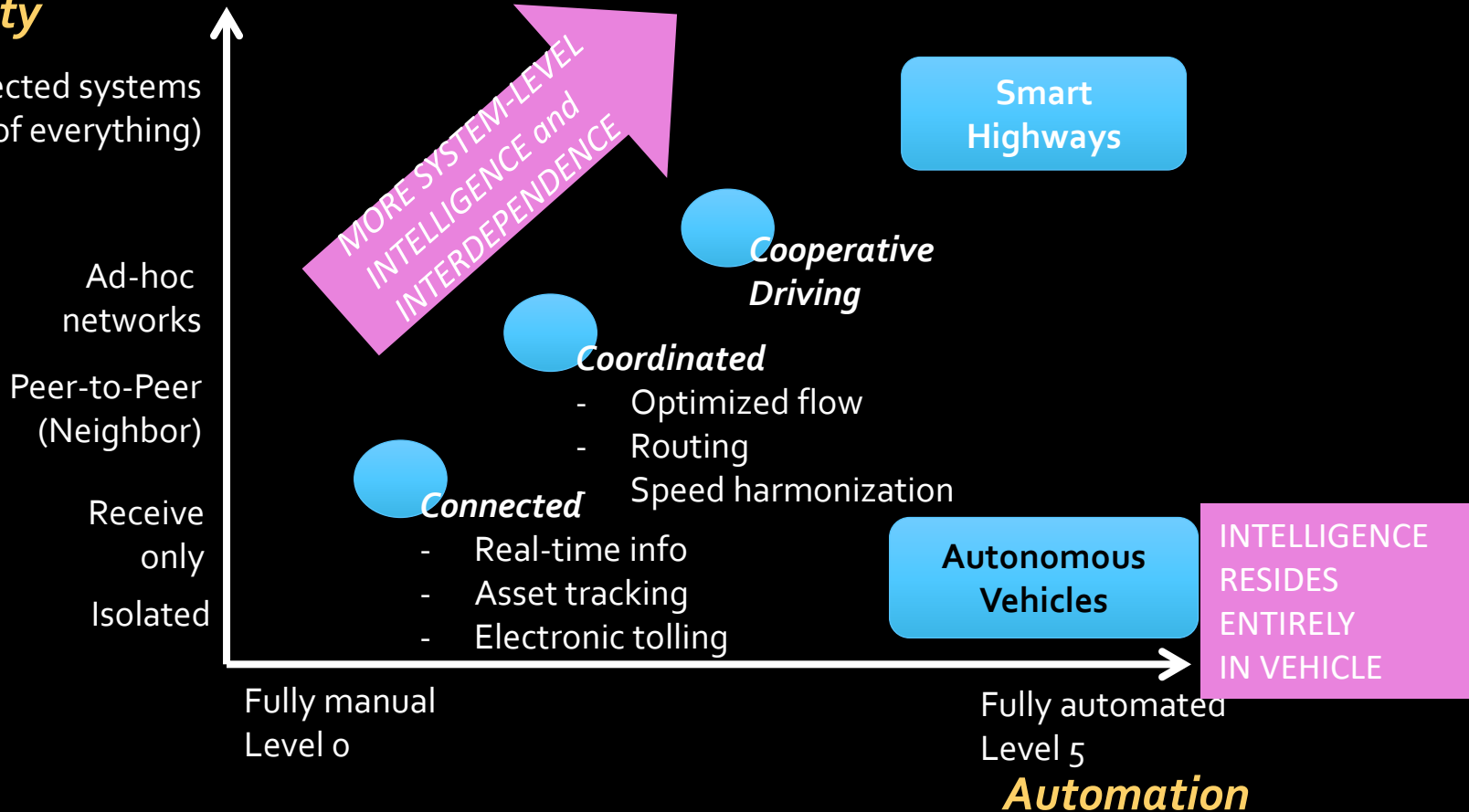
New 5G platform will augment / complement C-V2X—no 'rip and replace'



Simple Taxonomy of ITS Applications



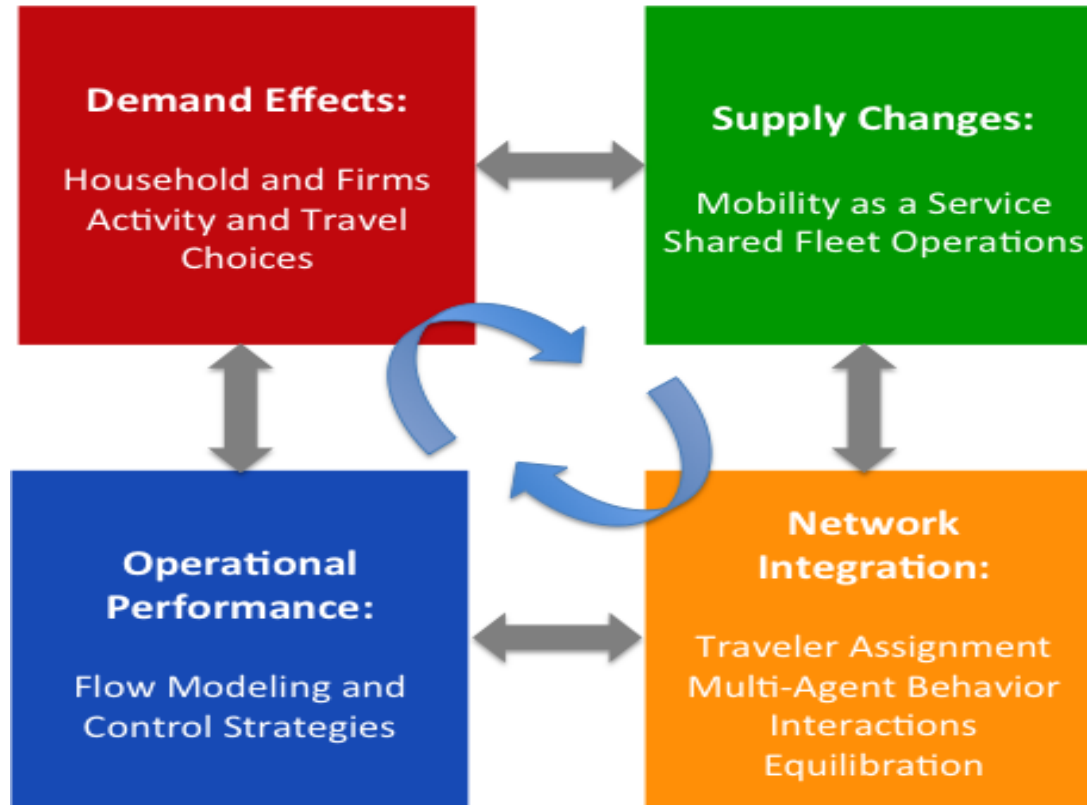
Connectivity



Gap Analysis Structure

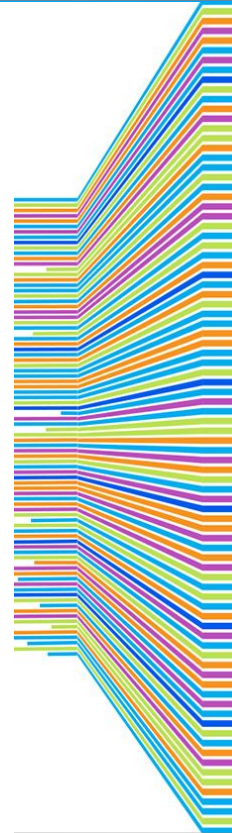
(NUTC, 2018 for FHWA study)

FOUR KEY MODELING COMPONENTS



Mobility Service Delivery Models

- Fully-autonomous vehicles (AVs) expected to **accelerate existing trends toward shared urban mobility**
- AVs eliminate cost and performance limitations associated with human drivers
- Allow mobility services to compete with personal vehicles in terms of cost and quality of service (i.e. short wait times)
- **Mobility as a service (MaaS)**-- Everyone has access to portfolio of services for different purposes-- multiple public transit modes, shared bikes, shared fleet of private vehicles, rides on demand...
- Expect to see a wide-variety of **AV fleet business models**



AV Fleet Business Models for Mobility Service

Potential Variants

AV Fleet Business Model Decisions

Hyland and Mahmassani (TRR, 2017)

Strategic Decisions

Pricing	Reservation Time-frame	Shared Rides	Reservation Type	Vehicles	Fleet Size Elasticity	Vehicle Fuel-Type
Variable (e.g. Marginal Cost)	Advanced Requests	Sharing	Point-to-Point	Heterogeneous	Variable/Elastic	Electric
Fixed	Immediate Requests	No Sharing	Hourly	Homogeneous	Fixed	Conventional Gasoline

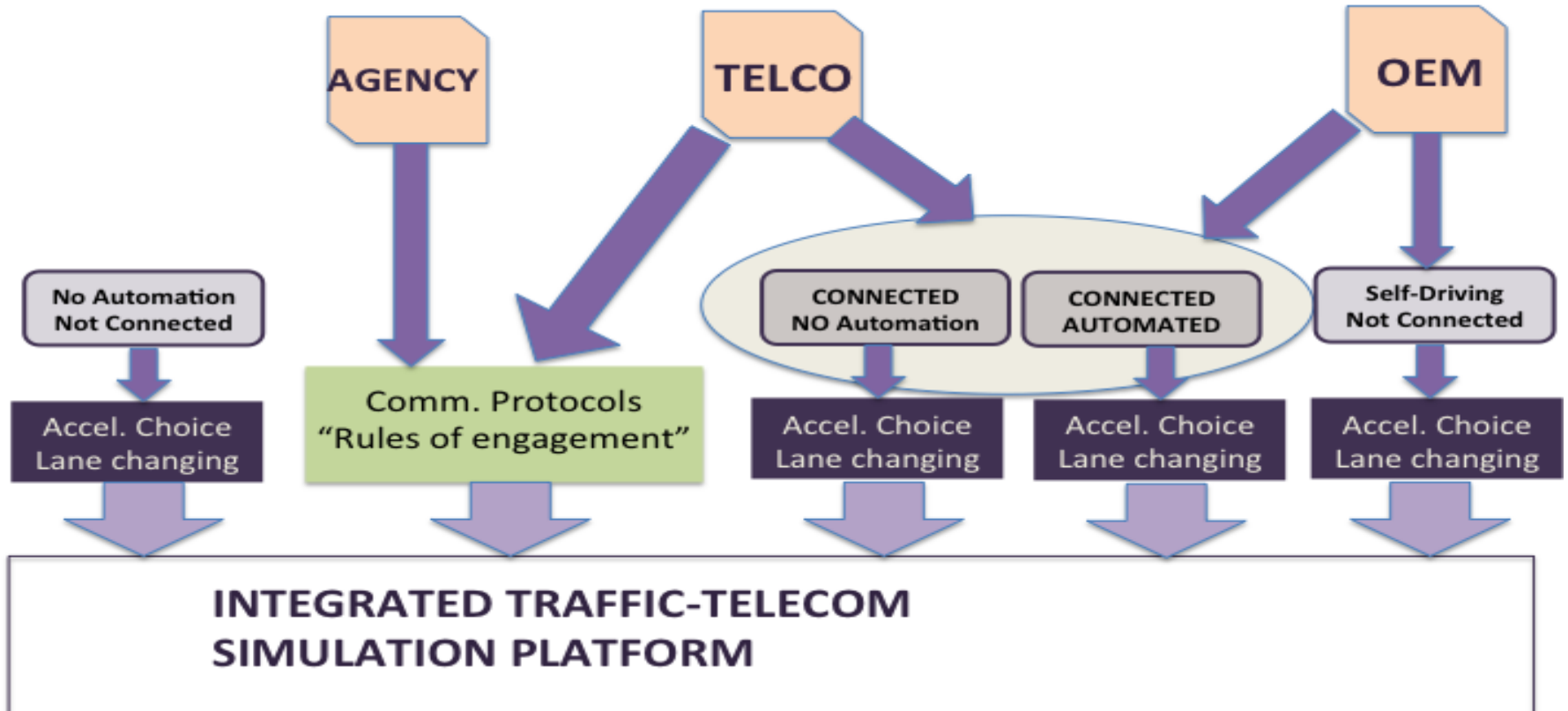
Tactical Decisions

Vehicle Repositioning

Diverting En-route Vehicles

Request Hold before Assignment

OUR APPROACH



Predictive Control Application in a CAV Environment : Shockwave Detection and Speed Harmonization

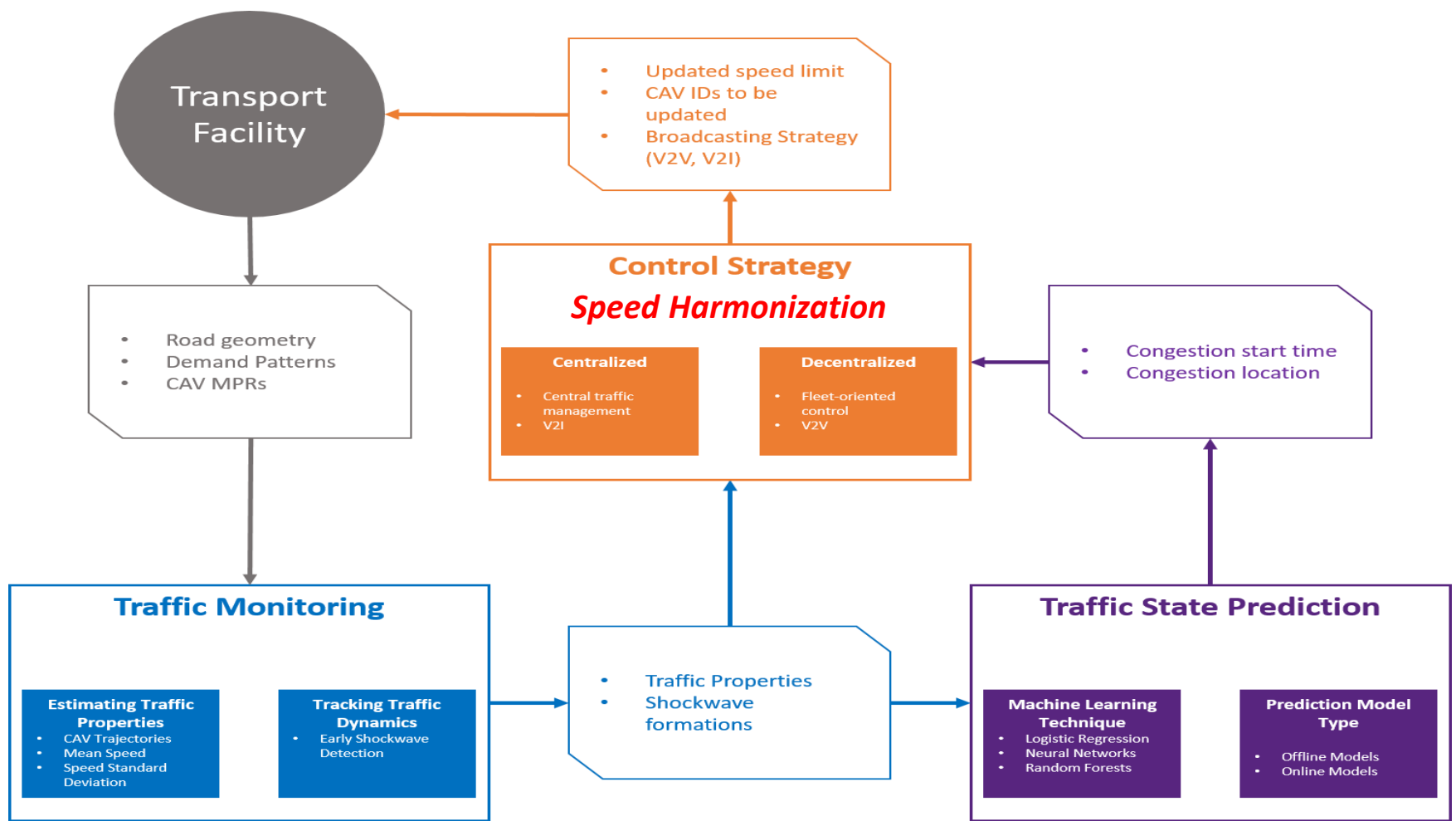
Based on Amr ElFar's PhD Dissertation (2019)

What is a Traffic Shockwave?

- Traffic shockwaves reflect a transition from the free-flow traffic state to the congested state
 - can create potentially unsafe situations to drivers
 - increase travel time
 - significantly reduce highway throughput
- Traditional detection approach is to track changes in speed and density over space and time
 - Density is difficult to measure on freeways (occupancy as a proxy)
 - Locating the start of the shockwave is inaccurate (depends on the number and location of installed road sensor)
- **Connectivity offers new opportunities for better detection of shockwaves.**
 - Detailed vehicle trajectories offer deeper insights into traffic interactions that leads to shockwave formation

Traffic Shockwave Illustration



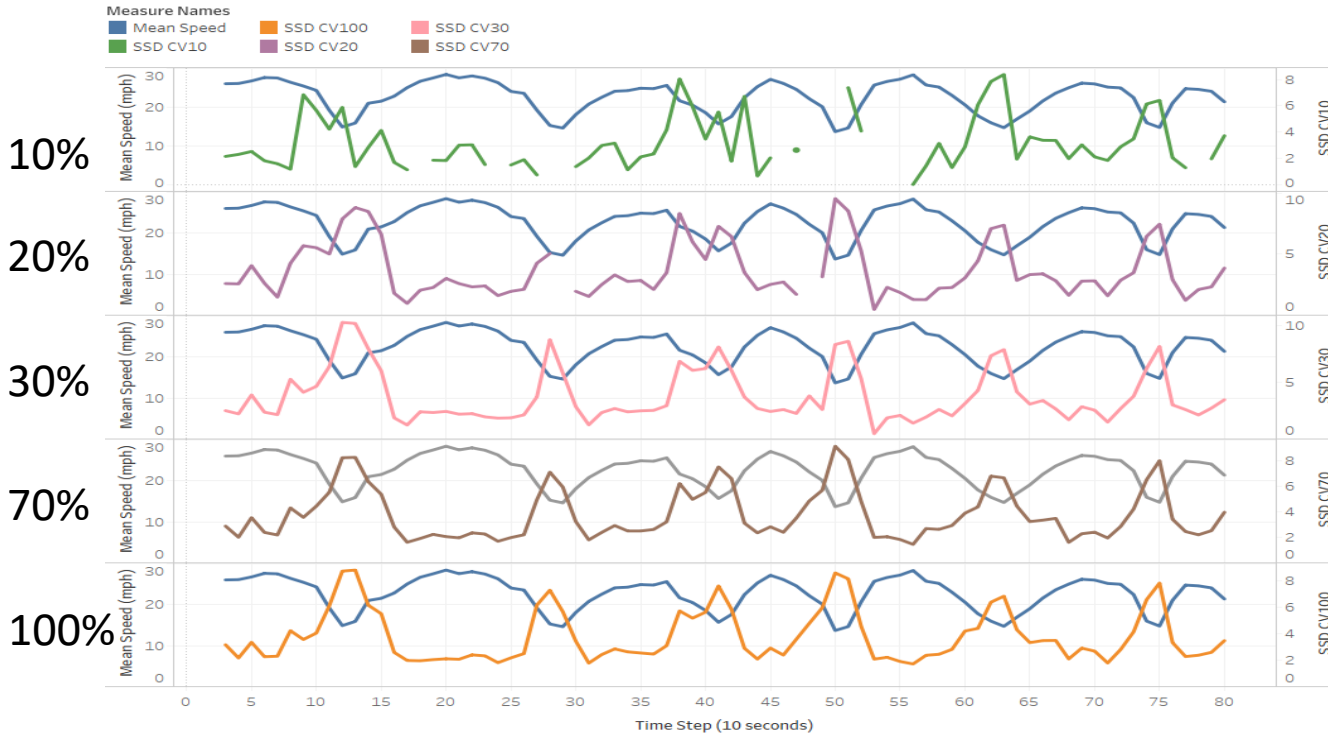


Prediction Methodology

Objective: identify shockwave formation and propagation based on the **speed variation** of individual vehicles available through connected vehicles technology

1. Segment a road facility into smaller sections (e.g. 200 ft)
2. Estimate traffic properties from CAV generated data in those sections
3. Monitor the changes in traffic properties across sections (mean speed, **speed standard deviation**)
4. Identify formation and propagation of shockwaves

Speed Standard Deviation Waves with Partial Connectivity



At low market penetrations, SSD could not be estimated for some time steps because there were not any connected vehicles detected

For market penetrations that are larger than 30%, SSD could be estimated for all time steps.

Building the Predictive Models

- Temporally and spatially lagged models
 - current values of the dependent variable is predicted using lagged (past values) of explanatory variables – **when current values of explanatory variables are used, it predicts the future state**
 - spatially lagged because traffic disruption starts downstream of a target segment
 - Actual vehicle trajectories to build models (NGSIM)

$$y_{ts} = v_{(t-1)s} + v_{(t-1)(s+1)} + ssd_{(t-1)(s+1)}$$

Variable		Description
y_{ts}	Dependent Variable	
	Traffic State	Binary: the state of traffic whether congested or uncongested as identified using the travel time index (TTI) with a threshold above 1.7 (LA Congestion).
$v_{(t-1)s}$	Explanatory Variables	
	Lagged Mean Speed in Current Section	Continuous: the average speed of individual vehicles in the current section, lagged 10, 20, or 30 seconds
	Lagged Mean Speed in Downstream Section	Continuous: the average speed of individual vehicles in the next downstream section, lagged 10, 20, or 30 seconds
	Lagged Speed Standard Deviation in Downstream Section	Continuous: the speed standard deviation of individual vehicles in the next downstream section, lagged 10, 20, or 30 seconds

Methodology

Types of Predictive Models

- Offline models
 - built using historical data and updated whenever new data is available or when necessary (e.g. major infrastructure changes)
- Online models
 - built using historical data and updated (re-trained) regularly using real-time information on prevailing traffic conditions

Machine Learning Specifications

- Binary logistic regression
 - cut-off probability above 50%
- Random Forest
 - 500 trees
- Neural Networks
 - One hidden layer

Model Accuracy Measures

- Three accuracy measures
 - **Overall accuracy:** the percentage of traffic states correctly predicted
 - **Congested state prediction accuracy:** the percentage of the congested states correctly predicted
 - **Uncongested state prediction accuracy:** the percentage of the uncongested states correctly predicted

Offline Models (Partial MPR)

Model	CV	Overall Accuracy	Congested State Prediction Accuracy	Uncongested State Prediction Accuracy
Random Forest 10s	30%	91%	95%	80%
Random Forest 10s	50%	92%	95%	82%
Random Forest 10s	100%	93%	95%	85%
Random Forest 20s	30%	86%	92%	70%
Random Forest 20s	50%	88%	93%	73%
Random Forest 20s	100%	90%	94%	77%

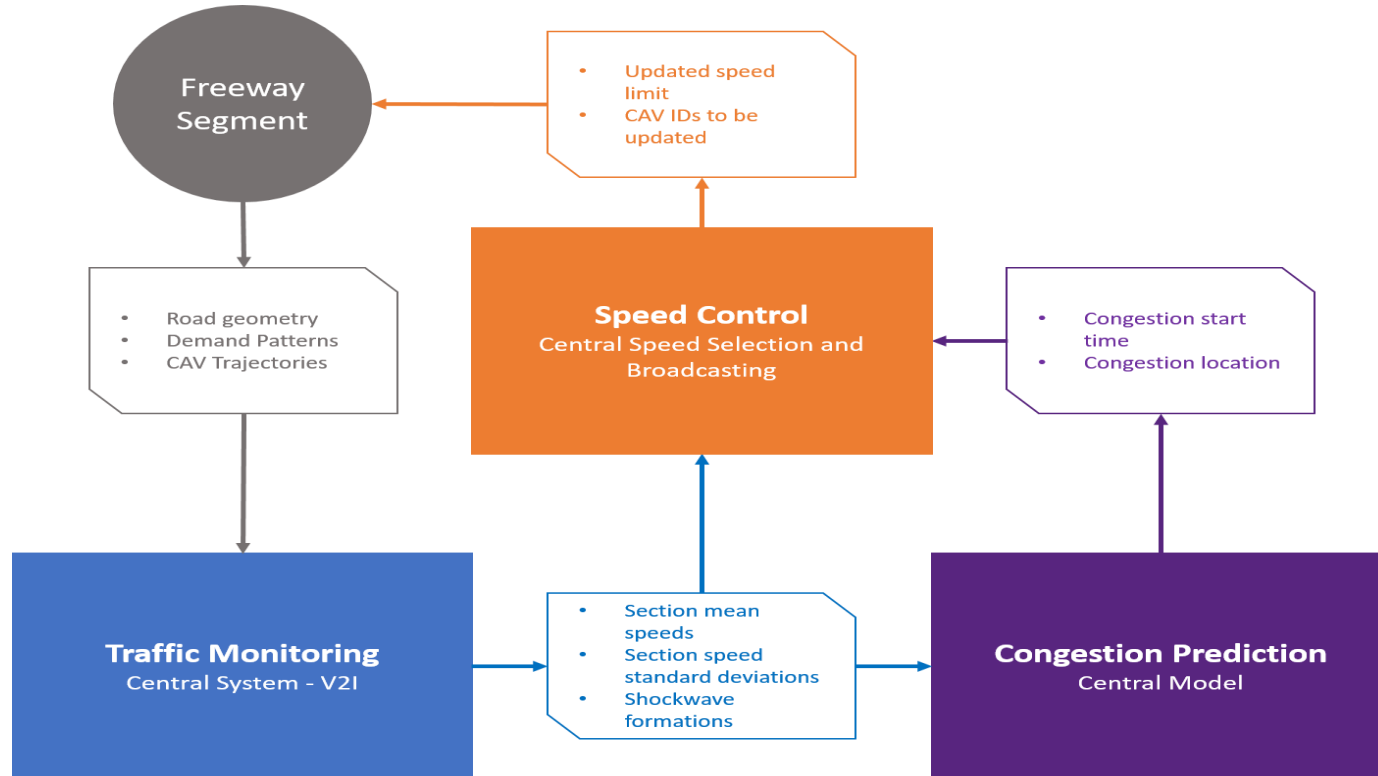
- Higher accuracy at higher MPRs -> **improved SSD estimates**
- Similar patterns for other ML algorithms

Congestion Prediction Conclusion

- Two types of predictive models were developed
 - Offline models; built using historical data only
 - Online models; updated in real-time
- Overall prediction accuracy **86% - 94%**
- The models can be used for partially connected traffic streams

Control Strategy Application: Predictive Speed Harmonization in a Connected Environment with **Centralized Control**

Predictive Speed Harmonization in a Connected Environment with **Centralized** Control



System Differentiation

The system is different from traditional speed harmonization systems in **four key areas**:

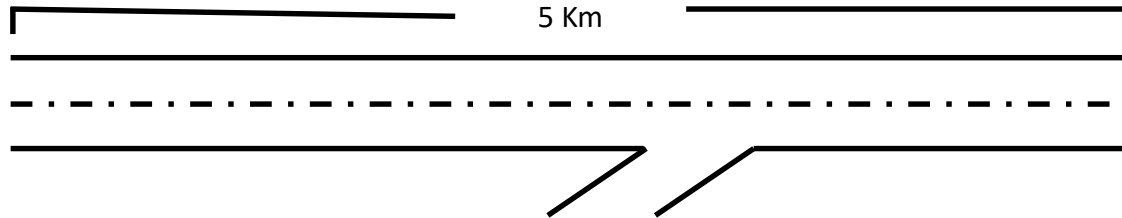
1. It solely relies on connected vehicles to collect traffic information – no need for road sensors
2. Uses machine learning to predict traffic congestion (up to 93% accuracy)
3. The system identifies the location of congestion anywhere on a freeway segment - not constrained by infrastructure sensors
4. General formulation selects optimal speed limits and broadcasting distance to maximize traffic speed

Design Parameters

- **Prediction horizon:** duration over which congestion is predicted to happen
 - affects prediction accuracy
- **Broadcasting distance:** the distance between the predicted congestion location and the point at which CAVs receive updated speed limits before reaching congestion
 - affects the transition smoothness of traffic
- **Set of potential speed limits** for traffic upstream of congestion
 - affects the effectiveness of the strategy

Case Studies

- Multiple operational scenarios of a 2-lane freeway segment (5 Km) with one on-ramp
- Volumes: 3000 vph main lanes, 500 vph on-ramp



Congestion Prediction

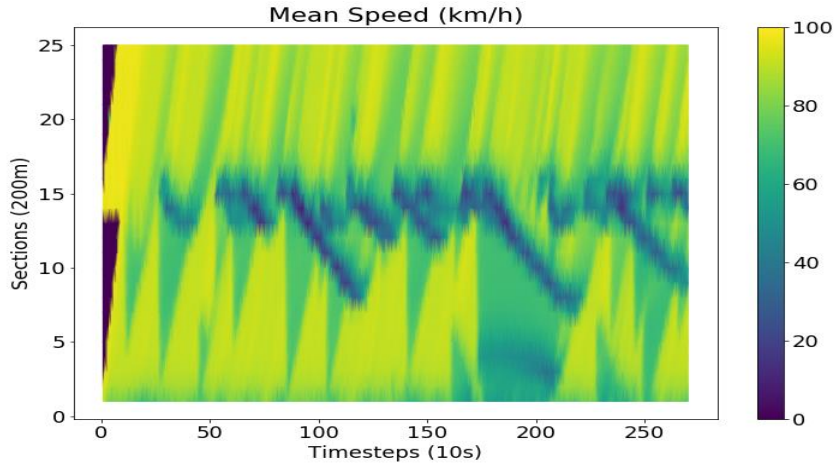
- Utilize the same machine learning model introduced earlier

$$y_{ts} = v_{(t-1)s} + v_{(t-1)(s+1)} + ssd_{(t-1)(s+1)}$$

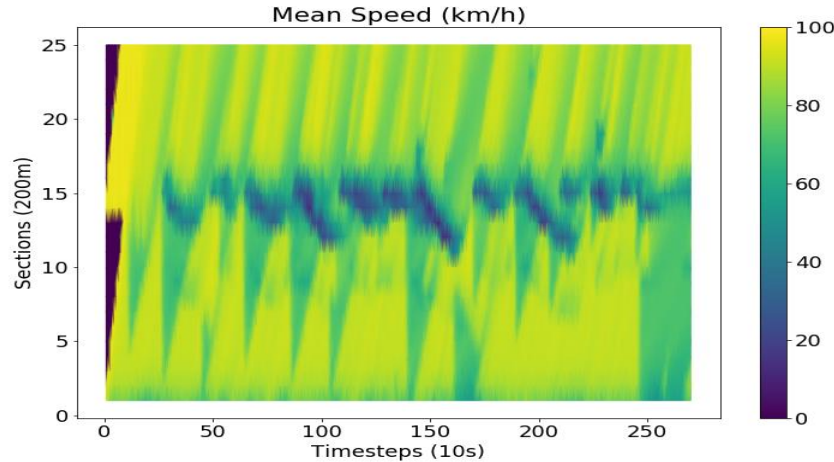
- Training data was generated using simulated trajectories for 2-lane highway with one on-ramp at various demand levels (1000 - 4000 vphl)

Model	Prediction Horizon	Overall Accuracy	Congested State Prediction Accuracy	Uncongested State Prediction Accuracy	Data Source
<i>Previous study - Elfar et al (10)</i>					
Logistic	10s	93%	96%	85%	NGSIM
Logistic	20s	91%	95%	79%	NGSIM
Random Forest	10s	93%	95%	85%	NGSIM
Random Forest	20s	90%	94%	77%	NGSIM
Neural Network	10s	89%	97%	68%	NGSIM
Neural Network	20s	90%	95%	78%	NGSIM
<i>This study</i>					
Random Forest	10s	99%	95%	99%	Simulation
Random Forest	20s	98%	90%	99%	Simulation
Random Forest	30s	97%	87%	99%	Simulation

Base
Direction of Travel ↑



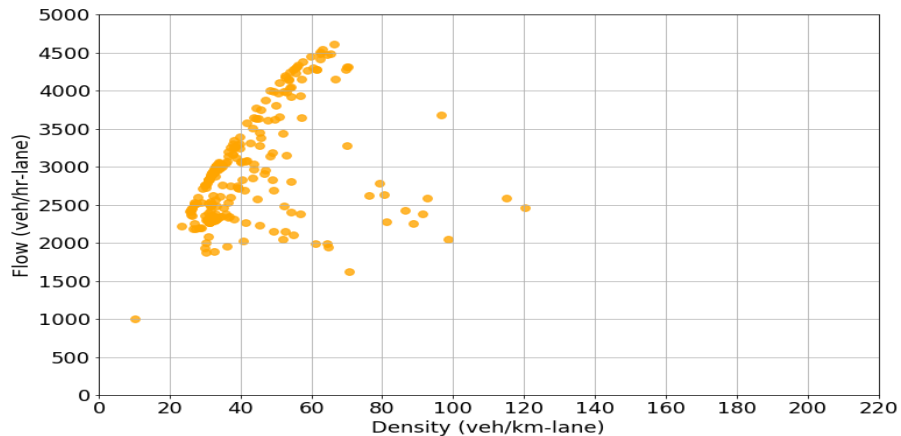
Active SPDHRM
Direction of Travel ↑



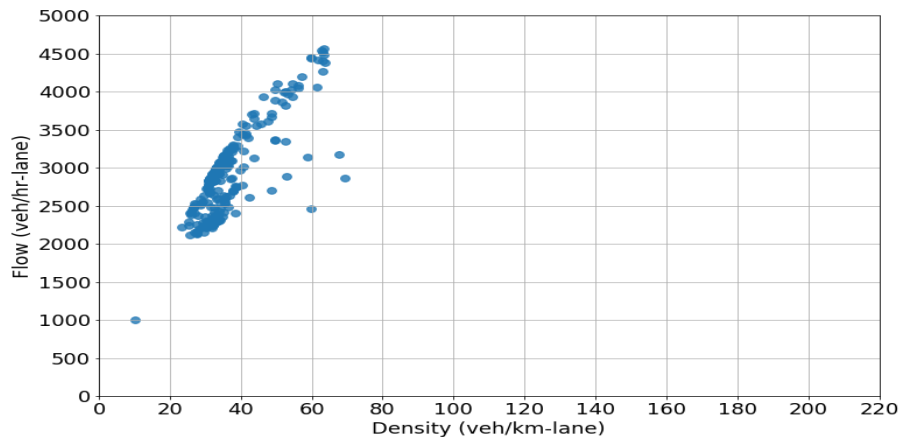
Activating SPDHRM reduces the severity and length of traffic shockwaves (improves safety)

Note: Using conventional Decision-tree approach for setting speed limit values

Base

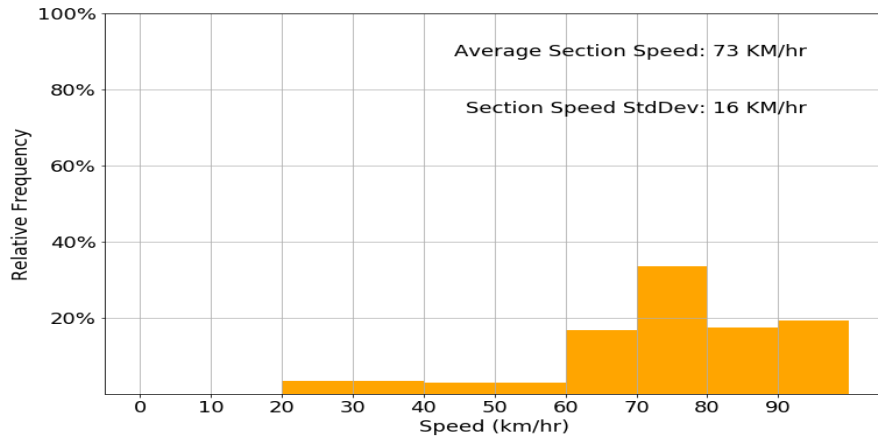


Active SPDHRM

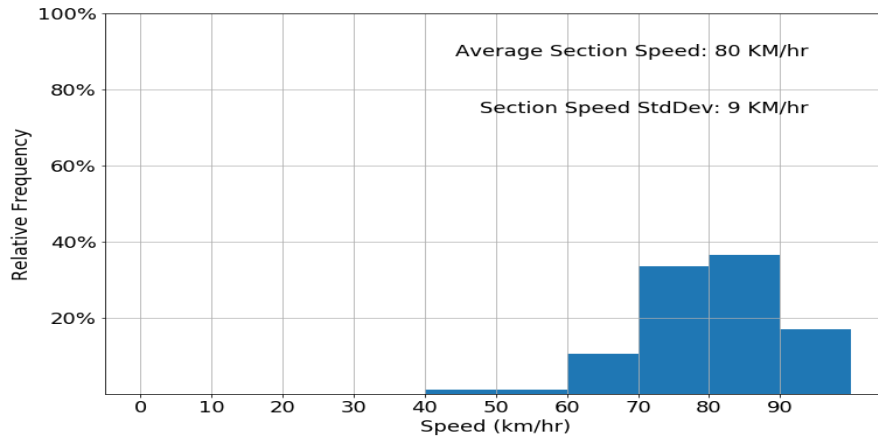


Activating SPDHRM improves traffic stability and performance

Base

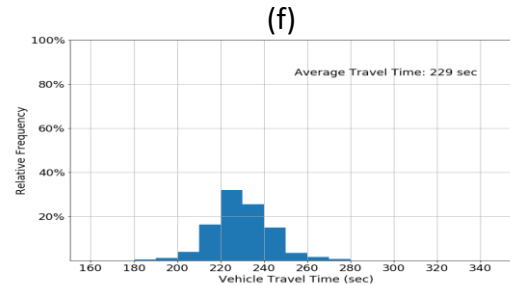
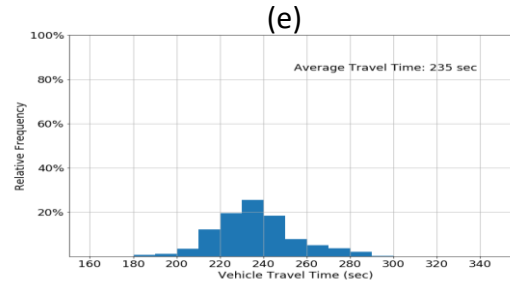
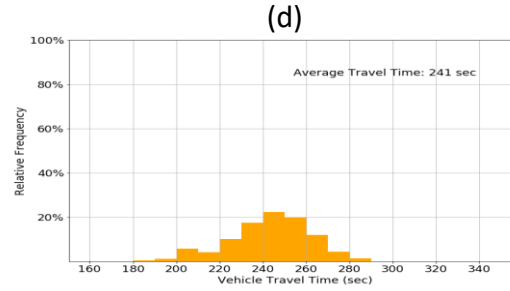
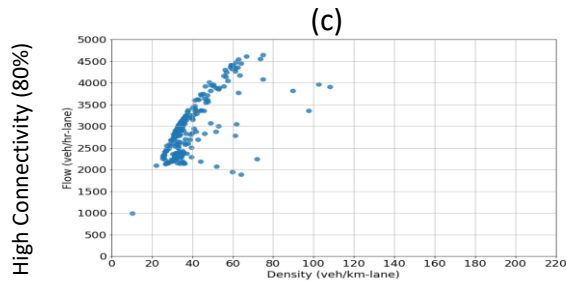
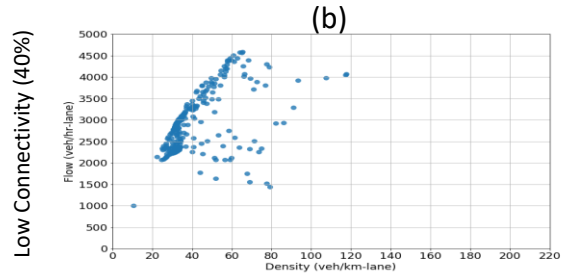
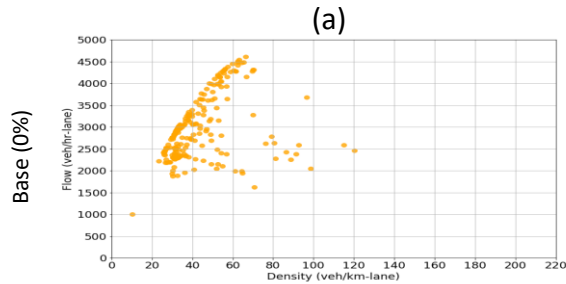


Active SPDHRM



Activating SPDHRM increases overall speed and reduces its variation

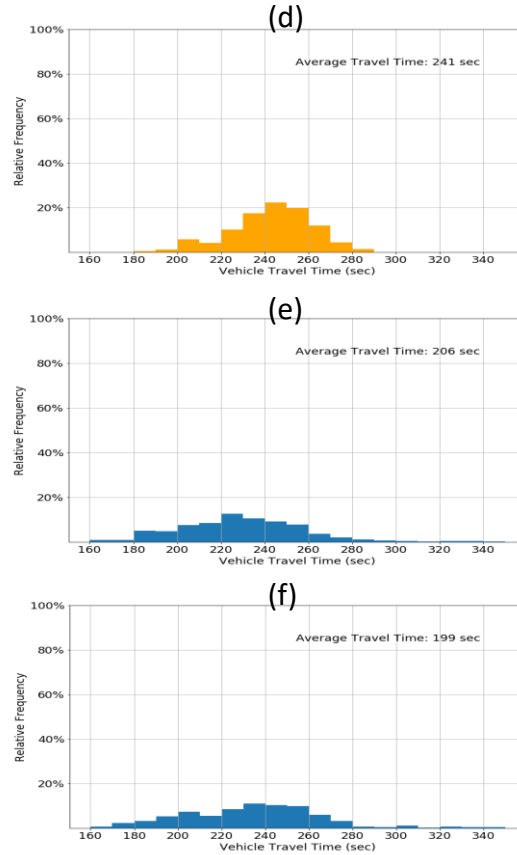
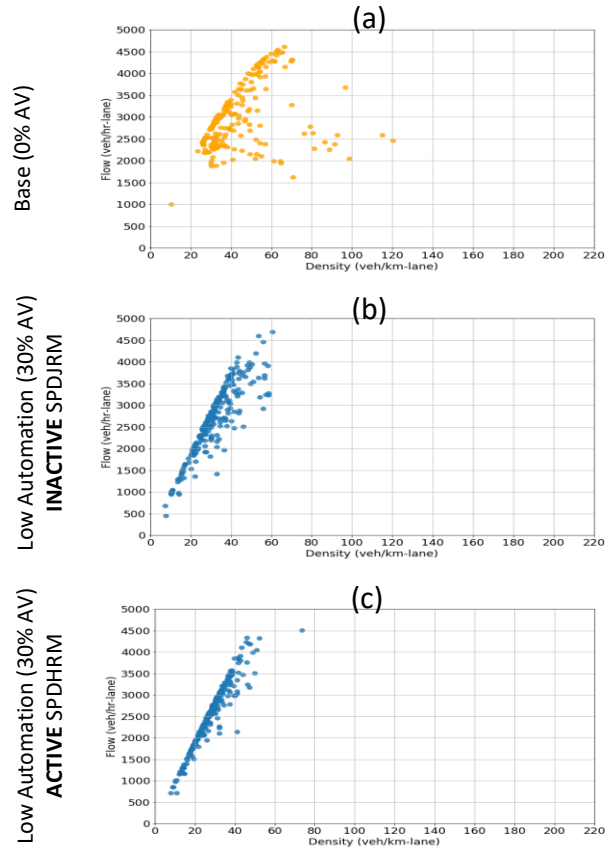
Connectivity improves the performance of SPDHRM



Higher CV market penetration:

1. Improves congestion prediction
2. Improves speed compliance rate

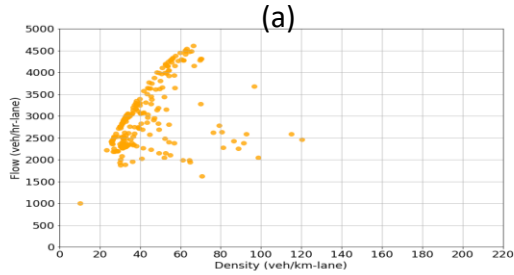
SPDHRM improves traffic performance in low automation conditions



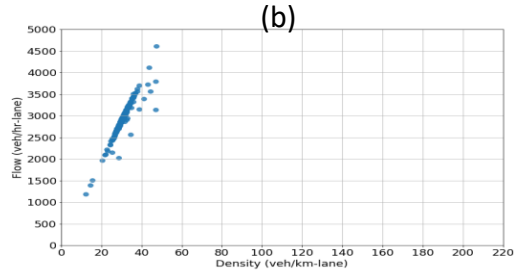
- Automated vehicles stabilize traffic without SPDHRM due to the robotic nature of its driving behavior
- SPDHRM further improves traffic performance by controlling speed of connected vehicles

SPDHRM has virtually no impact on traffic in high automation conditions

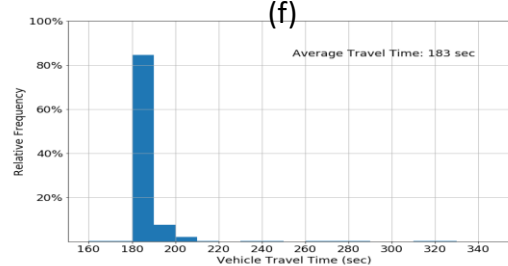
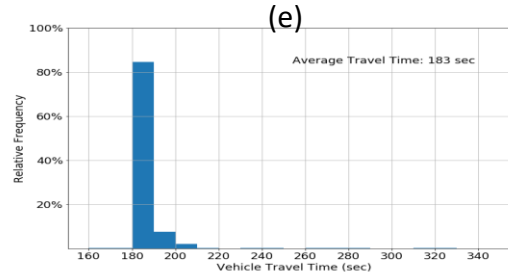
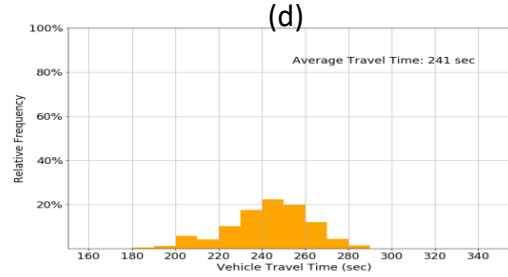
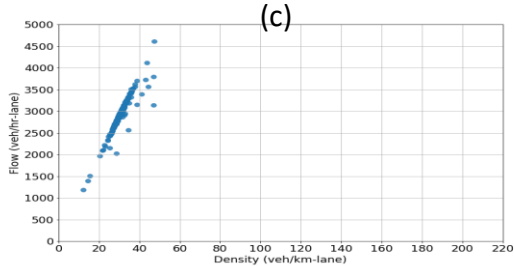
Base (0% AV)



High Automation (70% AV)
INACTIVE SPDHRM



High Automation (70% AV)
ACTIVE SPDHRM



- SPDHRM is not activated as the high market penetration of AVs prevents congestion

The system's design parameters need to be fine-tuned for optimal results

Broadcasting Distance (m)	Average Travel Time (sec)	Average Speed (km/h)	StdDev Speed (km/h)
500	233	75	16
1000	229	80	9
1500	237	76	13
2000	235	77	13

Prediction Horizon (sec)	Average Travel Time (sec)	Average Speed (km/h)	StdDev Speed (km/h)
10	236	75	14
20	229	80	9
30	230	76	15

Two ways to choose parameters:

- Scenario-analysis (field or simulations)
- Optimization

Optimization-based Formulation for Predictive SPDHRM at the Individual Vehicle Level

$$\begin{aligned} & \max \sum_{t=t_o}^{t_o+t_{oh}} \sum_{v \in V} DT_{tv}(u_v^{m5}) \\ & u_{min} \leq u_v^{m5} \leq u_{max}, \quad \forall v \in V^{us} \\ & u_v^{m5} = 5 * u_v, \quad \forall v \in V^{us} \\ & u_v \text{ integer}, \quad \forall v \in V^{us} \end{aligned}$$

t :	time step
t_o :	current time step
t_{oh} :	optimization horizon
v :	vehicle id
V :	set of all vehicle ids in targeted segment
V^{us} :	set of vehicles ids upstream of congestion location
DT_{tv} :	distance traveled by vehicle (v) at time step (t) as a function of speed limits (simulation)
u_v^{m5} :	decision variable - updated speed for vehicle (v) as a multiple of 5
u_v :	decision variable - updated speed for vehicle (v)
u_{min} :	min speed limit on highway
u_{max} :	max speed limit on highway

General formulation is computationally infeasible at the individual vehicle level

- Microsimulation is the only way to predict distance travelled by vehicles while capturing the interactions of different driving behaviors and control strategies
- Major limitation of this formulation
 - Microsimulation is computationally intensive and time consuming
 - Microsimulation-based optimization needs to run the simulation a large number of times to find optimal solution
- Solution: reformulate to reduce number of decision variables
 - Finite reduced sets of speeds and distances

$$u \in U = \{u_{min}, (u_{min} + 5), \dots, u_{max}\}$$
$$d \in D = \{500, 1000, 1500\}$$

Performance Comparison

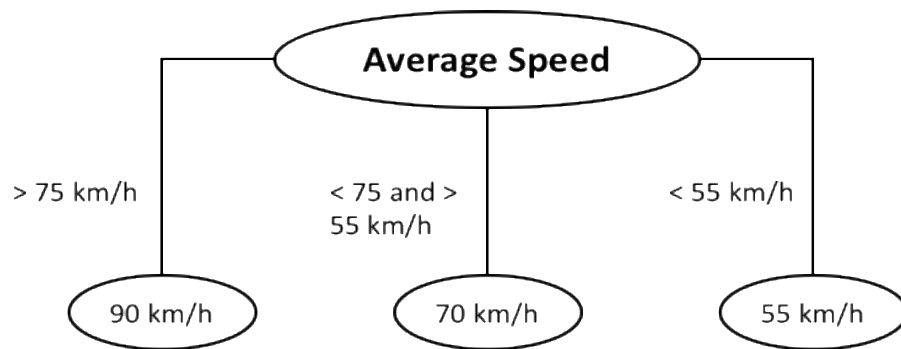
Optimization-based

$$\max \sum_{t=t_o}^{t_o+t_{oh}} \sum_{v \in V} DT_{tv}(u, d)$$

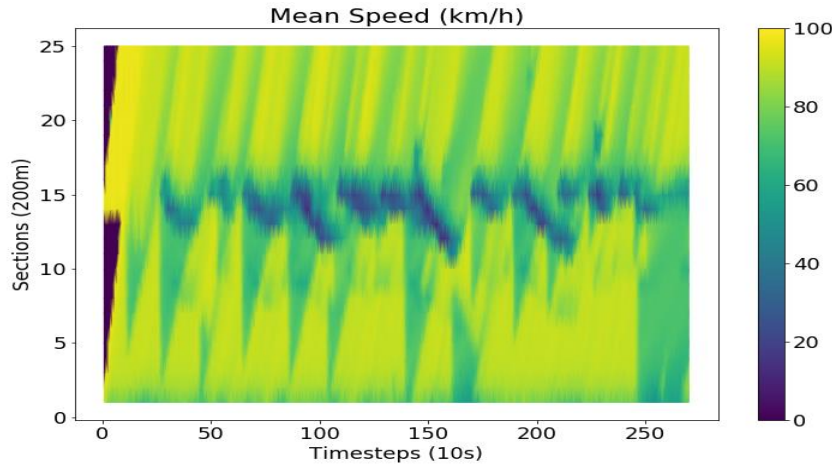
$u \in U = \{55, 60, 65, \dots, 100\}$
 km/h

$d \in D = \{500, 1000, 1500\} m$

vs. Decision-Tree Speed Control

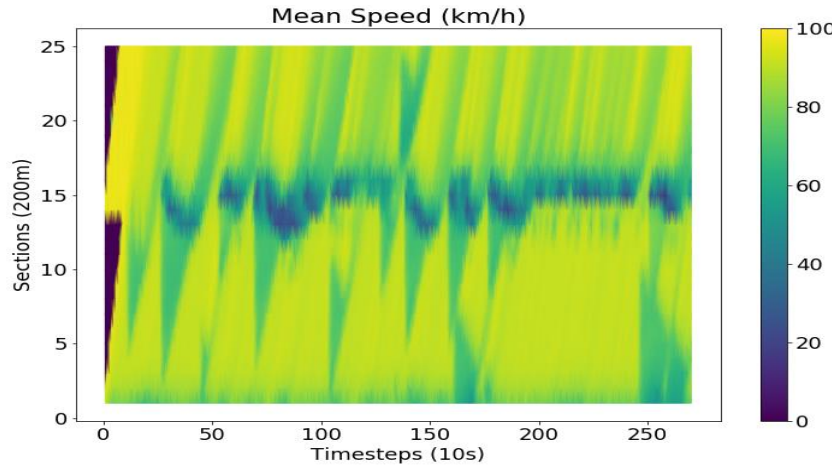
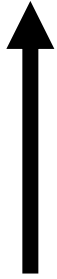


Decision-tree
Direction of Travel



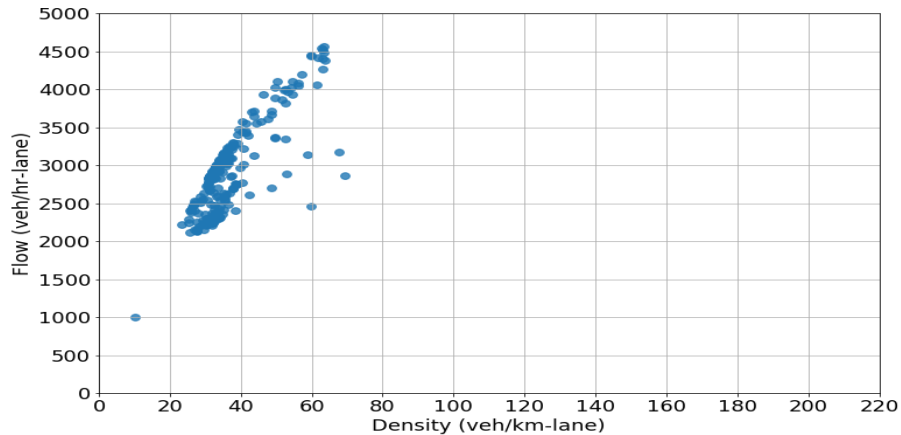
Optimization-based speed control further reduces the severity and length of traffic shockwaves

Optimization-based
Direction of Travel



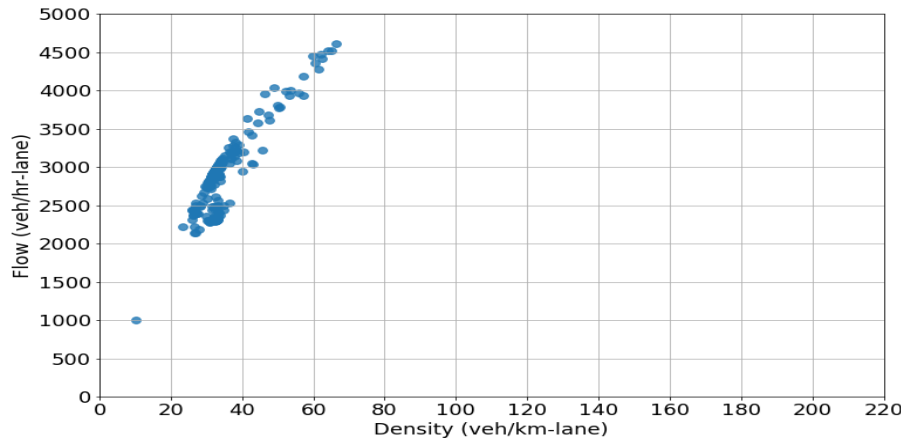
Optimal limit selection from a wider set of speeds and optimal broadcasting distance leads to smooth transition of upstream flow

Decision-tree

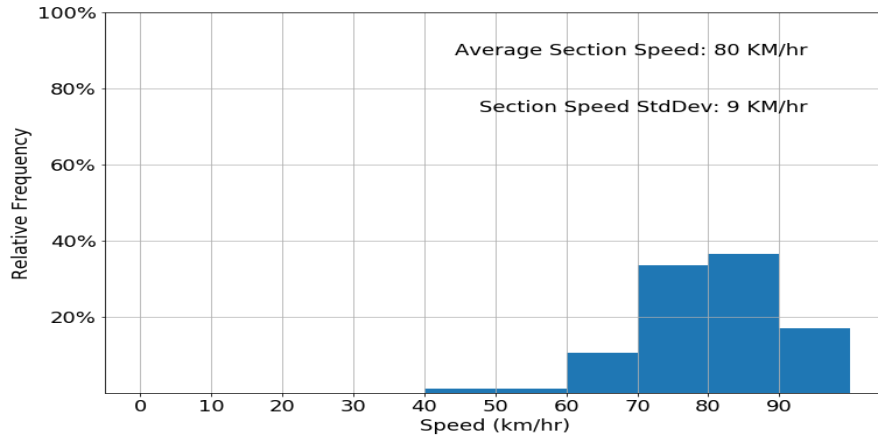


Optimization-based speed control further improves the stability of traffic

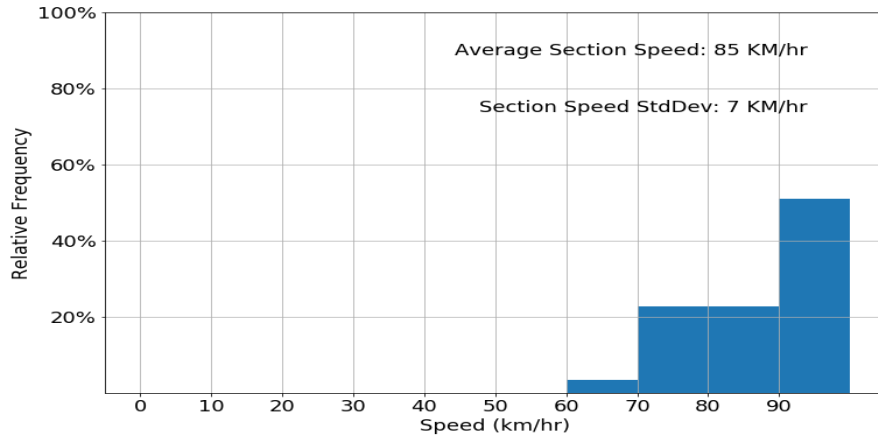
Optimization-based



Smooth transition in speed limits improves stability of traffic



Optimization-based speed control further improves the overall traffic speed



The optimization formulation maximizes speed

Increasing optimization horizon beyond 30 seconds (3x monitoring time-step) does not significantly improve performance

Optimization Horizon (seconds)	Average Travel Time (sec)	Average Speed (km/h)	StdDev Speed (km/h)
10	232	75	16
20	225	85	7
30	221	85	7
40	222	86	6
50	220	81	9

- Increasing prediction horizon significantly slows down simulation

What to keep in mind for a real-world application of optimization-based control?

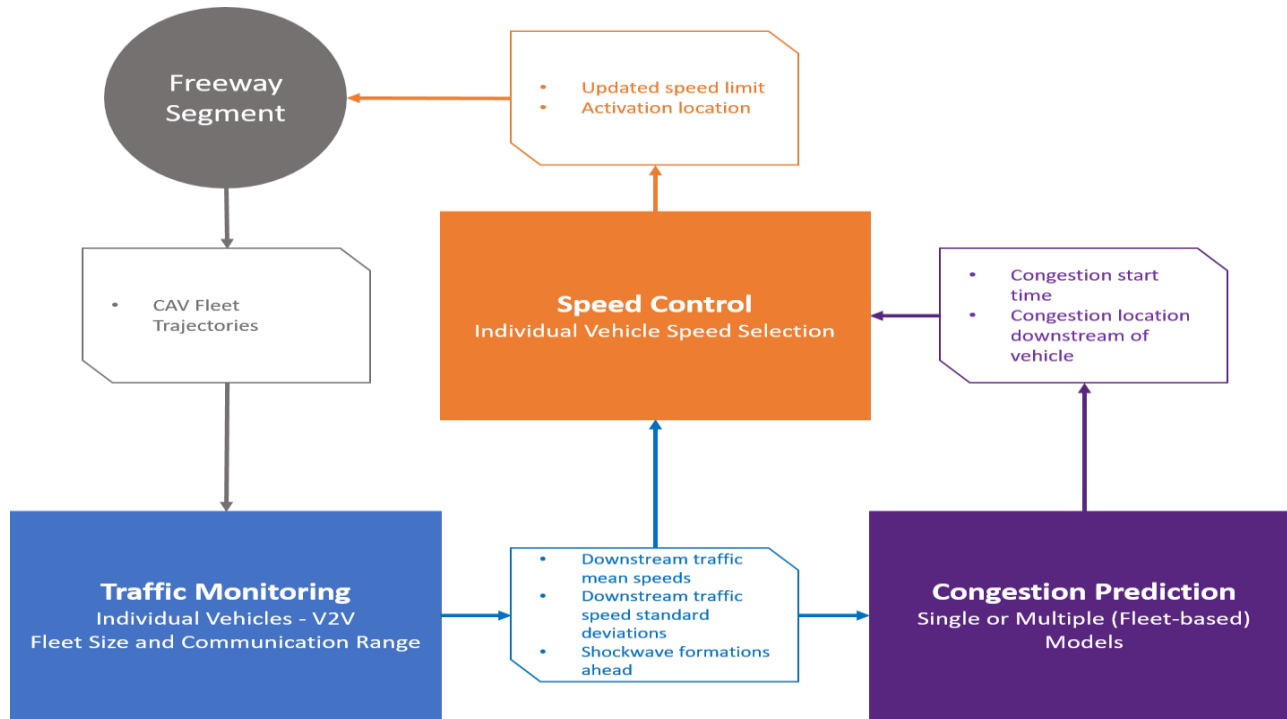
- Additional layer of prediction when estimating distance traveled – more prone to prediction errors
 - advancements in traffic microsimulation models and reinforced learning techniques minimize errors
- Computationally intensive and time consuming due to running a large number of simulations
 - Parallelization
 - Optimize traffic simulator for speed
 - Reduce number of potential decision variables to test (fastest)

Centralized SPDHRM Conclusion

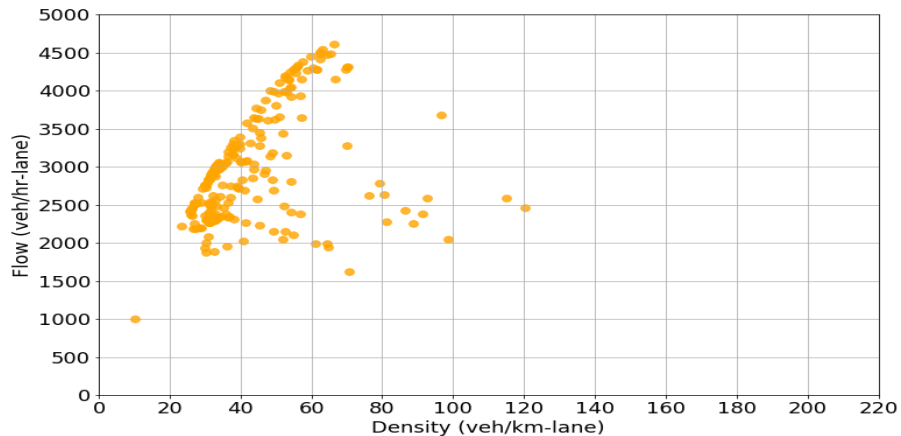
- Activating the SPDHRM system improves traffic stability, speed, and reduces travel time
- The system performance improves at higher market penetrations of CAVs
- The optimization-based control strategy further improves the performance of the system

Control Strategy Application: Predictive Speed Harmonization in a Connected Environment with **Decentralized Control**

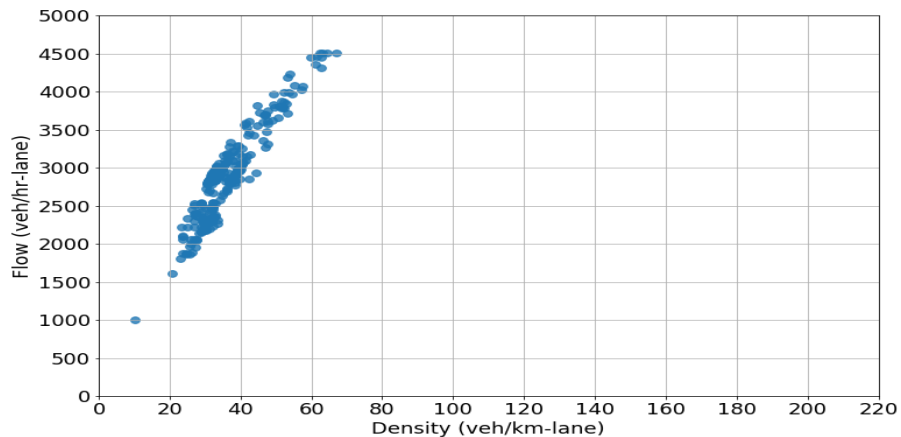
Predictive Speed Harmonization in a Connected Environment with **Decentralized** Control



Base

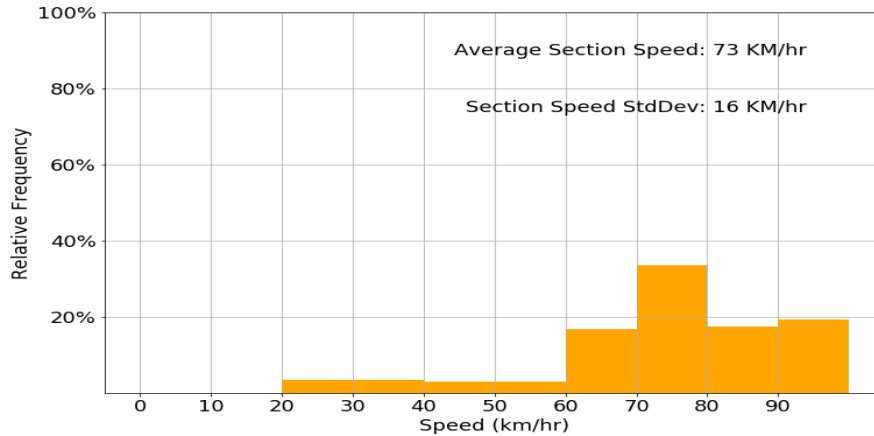


Active SPDHRM

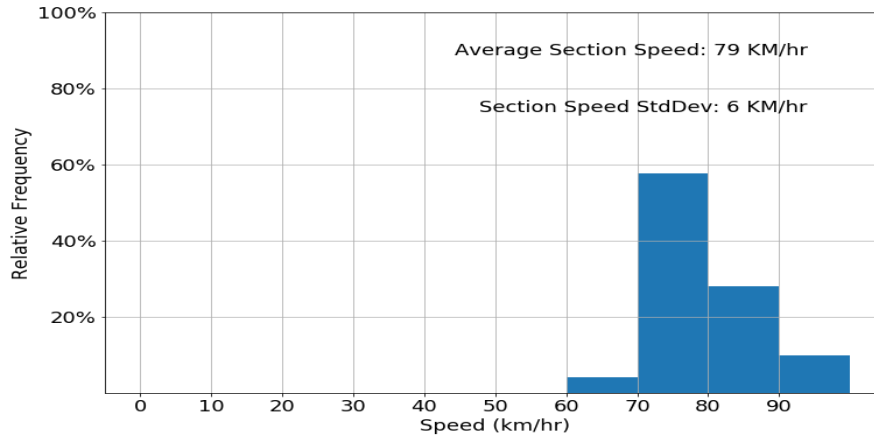


Decentralized SPDHRM
improves traffic stability and
performance

Base

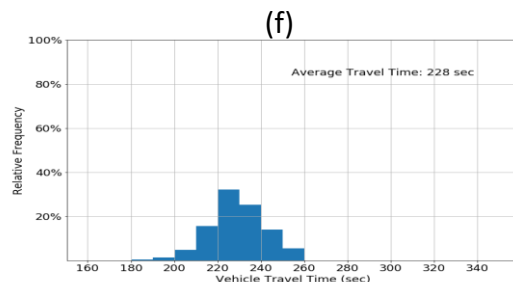
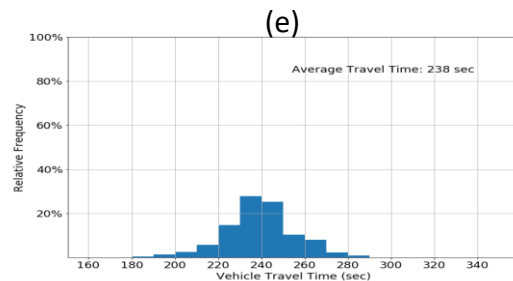
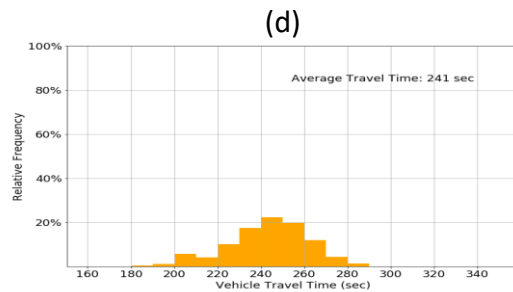
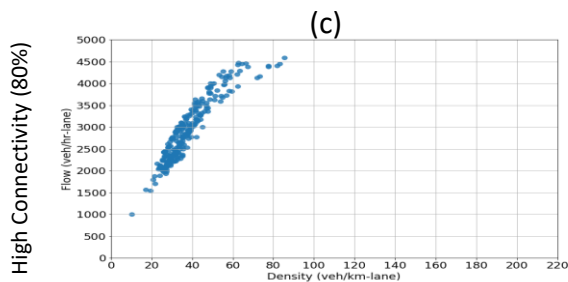
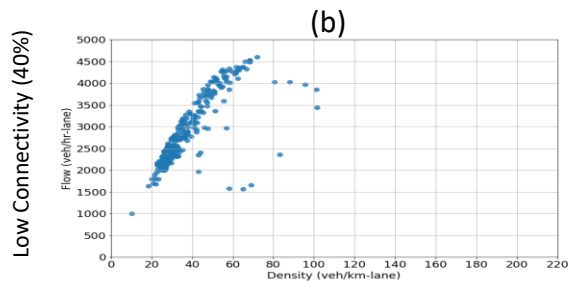
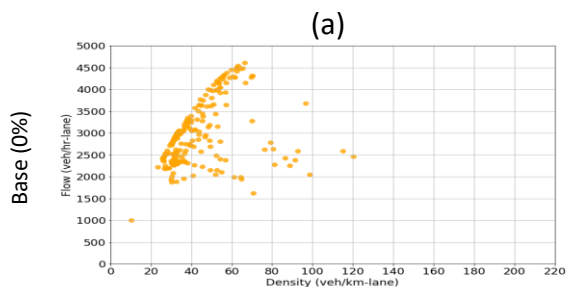


Active SPDHRM



Decentralized SPDHRM
increases overall speed and
reduces its variation

Connectivity improves the performance of decentralized SPDHRM

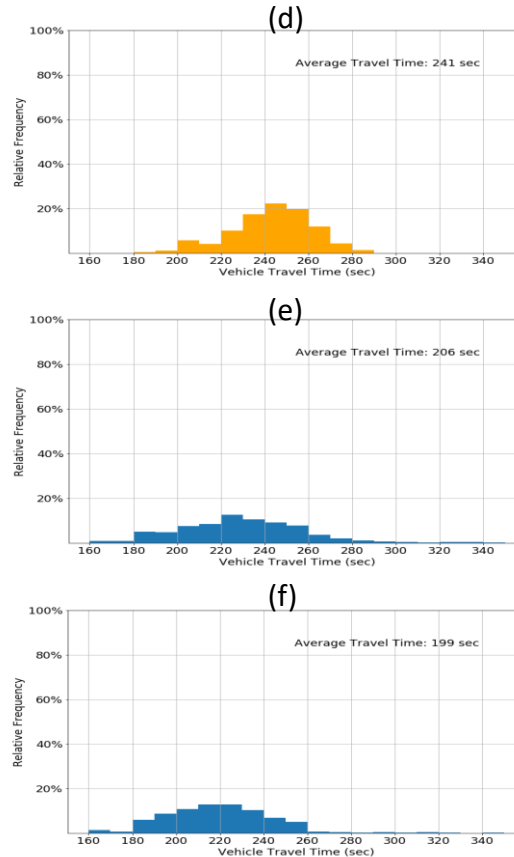
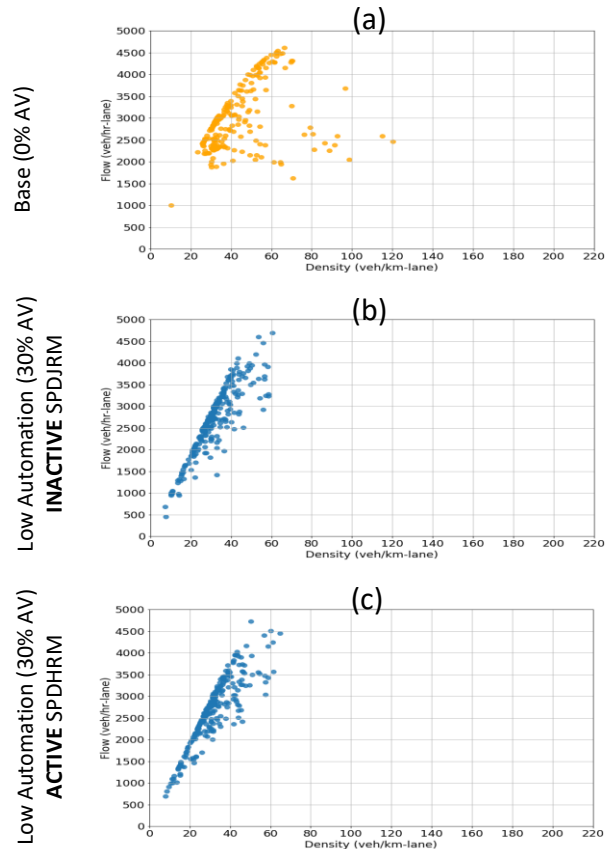


Higher CV market penetration:

1. Improves congestion prediction
2. Improves speed
3. Improves effectiveness

Note: This case assumes one single fleet (same prediction model, all CV data shared)

Decentralized SPDHRM improves performance under low automation

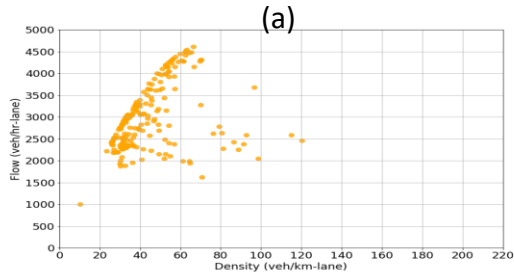


- Automated vehicles stabilizes traffic without SPDHRM due to the robotic nature of its driving behavior
- SPDHRM further improves traffic performance by controlling speed of connected vehicles

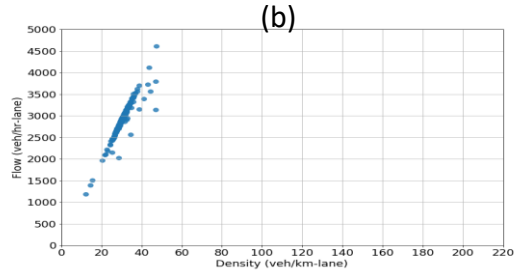
This case assumes one single fleet

Virtually no impact on traffic in high automation conditions

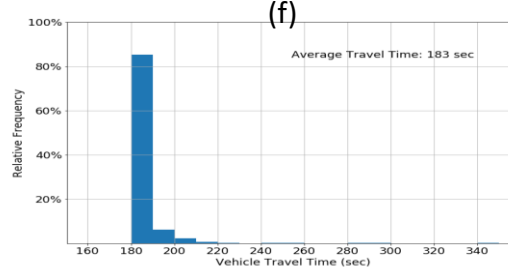
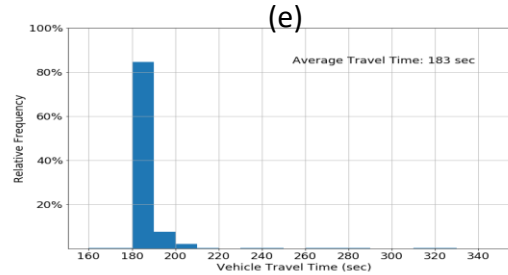
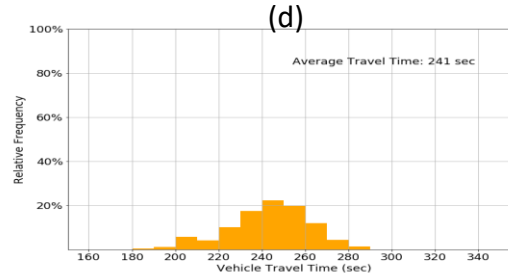
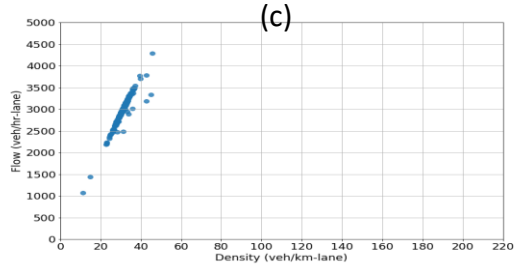
Base (0% AV)



High Automation (70% AV)
INACTIVE SPDHRM



High Automation (70% AV)
ACTIVE SPDHRM



- SPDHRM is not activated as the high market penetration of AVs prevents congestion

This case assumes one single fleet

Decentralized SPDHRM Conclusion

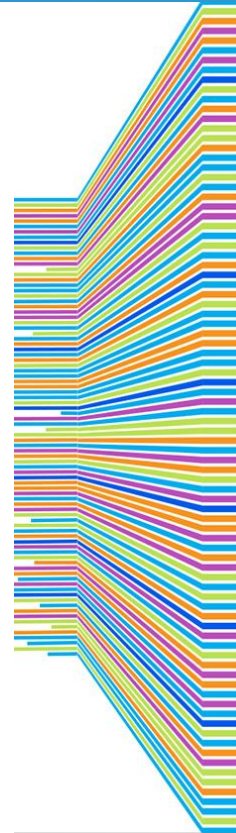
- Activating the decentralized system reduces the severity of traffic shockwaves, improves stability of traffic, increases overall traffic speed, and reduces travel time
- Having multiple prediction models (fleet-based models) reduces the effectiveness of the strategy
- Successful application of the decentralized system requires standardization of data collection among vehicles and the ability to communicate with vehicles from other fleets to improve prediction range and accuracy

KEY TAKEAWAYS: HOW IS IT DIFFERENT THIS TIME?

1. Transportation and mobility industries undergoing **major disruptive influences**: technology, players, concepts.
2. Forces transforming mobility systems – no longer dependent on public infrastructure investment. Connectivity through C-V2X (Advanced LTE, 5G) rather than DSRC.
3. Emergence and growing role for **shared mobility fleets** (autonomous Uber-like services and variants), though private ownership not likely to go away.
4. Change driven by **direct user adoption** of products and services, not agency sanctioning and procurement.
5. Advances in AI, computational optimization, distributed control, etc.-- driven and deployed by large technology companies.
6. *Connectivity and automation*– generate orders of magnitude more data and data opportunities; from micro to system level, in very large quantities. **Prediction and learning enable effective operation and control.**
7. Automation: All about replacing human functions, including responses and behaviors, by sensors, machine learning, AI and optimal control. **Fundamental knowledge and analytics built around modeling human capabilities, limitations and choices remains essential.**
8. Transportation agencies: **Embrace change, rethink how to best accomplish mission.**

Selected Research Challenges

1. The behavior question: what will people do? Adoption of new technologies and services, usage, satisfaction, happiness...
2. Algorithms for real-time shared autonomous fleet operations under different business models, at scale.
3. Integrated dynamic network modeling frameworks for urban and regional-level impact evaluation and system design: multi-player games with cooperative/competitive agents.
4. System operation and management through personalized information/incentives towards efficient and sustainable mobility; role of prediction, behavioral science.
5. Flow management in mixed traffic environments; machine learning, real-time control.
6. Data management in connected environment– from micro scale interventions to macro level assessment.



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