

Transit Connected Vehicles for Rural Communities

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The U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) IntelliDrive program is focused on advancing connectivity among vehicles and roadway infrastructure in order to significantly improve the safety and mobility of the U.S. transportation system. IntelliDrive is being developed through coordinated research, testing, demonstration and deployment. The Federal research investment is targeted to areas that are unlikely to be accomplished through private investment because they are too risky or complex. Other stakeholders, including the States, the automotive industry and their suppliers, and consumer electronics companies, are also researching and testing IntelliDrive technologies and applications so that the transportation community can realize the full potential and vision of IntelliDrive. The IntelliDrive program includes research on technical issues, policy and non-technical issues, and safety, mobility and environmental application areas.

Being a multimodal initiative that aims to enable safe, interoperable networked wireless communications among vehicles, the infrastructure, and passengers' personal communications devices, it is essential that transit is represented during this process. Transit has been and will continue to play an integral role in the IntelliDrive program.

This presentation will provide an overview and status update of the IntelliDrive program and discuss with the audience why and how transit stakeholders could contribute to and benefit from the IntelliDrive initiative. The presentation will then focus on certain application areas, such as mobility and safety that are particularly relevant to rural communities and transit operations. The presentation will also introduce the operational concepts of specific applications, such as transit connection protection and pedestrian and turning bus crash warning systems that have been identified by the USDOT as near term research and development priorities.