Policy Rundown

For ITS America Advocacy Trust and Innovation Trust

ITS America World Congress to Highlight Smart Cities and Advancements in Autonomous Vehicles

The ITS World Congress is now less than two weeks away, October 29th to November 2nd. Along with our partners, ITS Canada, ERTICO-ITS Europe and ITS Asia-Pacific, we are excited to welcome you to our host City of Montreal, which is one of the most magnificent cities in North America.

The World Congress begins October 29th and goes to November 2nd in the Palais des congrès de Montréal. It brings the intelligent transportation community together to collaborate and discuss the future of reliability, safety, equal access and dynamic user experience as it relates to integrated mobility innovations and transportation advances that are poised to transform transportation logistics.

At a time when intelligent transportation and autonomous vehicles are at the forefront of our future transportation systems, the ITS World Congress will offer cutting-edge keynotes and educational programming presented by intelligent transportation subject matter experts from around the world. It is a “must attend” event if you are in the transportation industry. We have a great list of
speakers attending including National Transportation Safety Board Member and former Chairman Christopher Hart, Transport Canada Minister Marc Garneau and the Michigan Governor Rick Snyder. You’ll also have the opportunity to meet and network with the top business leaders and government officials from around the world as we look to the exciting future of Intelligent Transportation.

This is going to be a superb ITS World Congress, and if you have not registered yet, we urge you to do so at http://itsworldcongress2017.org/registration/.

It is a very exciting time when it comes to Intelligent Transportation and everything we do will be discussed and on display at the World Congress. The transportation industry is dramatically evolving as advances in technology and the deployment of intelligent transportation systems change the future of mobility and provide enormous benefits to society, particularly in terms of safety.

The Smart Cities Pavilion is the centerpiece of the World Congress, and it will highlight how technology is addressing many of the challenges cities face as they grow, and as the demands for services increase and evolve. The exhibit floor will showcase technology at the core of intelligent transportation, autonomous and connected vehicles, and infrastructure improvements that have Intelligent Transportation as a focal point.

Five cities are participating in the Smart Cities Pavilion.

- **Montréal, Canada**’s most connected city, is significantly reducing dependence on cars through massive investment in various forms of public and active transportation.
- **Singapore** has achieved one of the world’s lowest congestion rates for a city of its size due to a mix of smart transportation technology.
- **Copenhagen, Denmark** pioneered traffic signal technology in 2016, prioritizing the flow of bikes and buses over cars at intersections, and the city is now improving safety through smart lighting technology.
- **Columbus, Ohio** is at the forefront of interconnectedness between vehicles and
infrastructure—Ohio State University is building autonomous vehicles, and the city is developing roads that can interact with driverless cars.

- **Christchurch, New Zealand** is the world’s latest smart city, introducing the first fully autonomous “Smart Shuttle” at its airport earlier this year.

There will be more than 250 speakers and educational sessions at the 2017 World Congress.

Intelligent transportation provides us a unique opportunity to increase productivity and to save lives. The numbers are truly staggering. It is estimated vehicle related deaths worldwide number 1.3 million lives each year, that’s more than 3,500 people per day. More than half of all road traffic deaths occur among young adults ages 15-44. Crashes rank as the 9th leading cause of death and account for 2.2% of all deaths globally. In the U.S., 94% of all accidents are caused by driver error.

The technology being developed and tested now to bring autonomous vehicles to our highways and roads will make being in a vehicle safer, resulting in fewer fatal accidents and injuries, keep traffic moving more efficiently and decrease the negative environmental effects of transportation on society. Autonomous vehicles will also provide more mobility options for young people, senior citizens and people with disabilities.

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ITS America is the nation’s largest organization dedicated to advancing the research, development and deployment of intelligent transportation systems. We are the only group bringing together automotive and original equipment manufacturers, Federal and State Department of Transportation leaders, officials from counties and cities, and universities.

If you need more information about the ITS World Congress go to the website [www.itsworldcongress2017.org](http://www.itsworldcongress2017.org). We look forward to seeing you in just a few days in Montreal.
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