Policy brief: Transport telematics

Statement of Issue

Modern transport telematics systems offer opportunities to make urban transport faster, more efficient, and to support travellers.

Communication technology can help to better coordinate traffic flows with the help of satellite-based applications, global positioning systems, wireless data transmission, automated traffic counting devices, and high-resolution cameras. These new technologies facilitate transport management, for example to give priority to public transport, improve parking management, and better enforce road rules. They also provide passengers with real-time information and mobile guidance.

Policy options from the CIVITAS 2020 project CIMEC

CIMEC – Cooperative ITS for mobility in European Cities

CIMEC was created to support the efforts of the European Commission in accelerating the take-up of Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems (C-ITS) and associated legal, organisational, technical and standardisation issues. Its primary aims were to understand potential benefits and impacts of cooperative intelligent transport systems (C-ITS) on urban environments, since most of the work to date has been focussed heavily on the highways context. The project ran from June 2015 to May 2017.[1]

In an extensive round of engagement, CIMEC identified eighteen city-relevant "use cases", relevant to one or more of city policy goals: traffic efficiency, traffic safety, the environment, or accessibility. Use cases include providing priority for public transport at traffic signals; helping freight vehicles manage their speed; fuel usage and emissions; and supporting other systems than could help prevent accidents with pedestrians and cyclists.[2]

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[1] CIMEC Final Brochure (2017). http://cimec-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/CIMEC-Brochure.pdf

[2] Cartwright, Mark; Knoop Leslie (2017). C-ITS Roadmap for European cities summary, http://cimec-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/CIMEC-D3.3b-Final-Roadmap-v1.0-Summary.pdf

CIMEC recommendations for future C-ITS deployment

The CIMEC industry survey found that most suppliers see the potential in cooperative systems, either to improve existing services, or to enable new services. However, few are investing heavily in their development, and the impression is of a market at an early stage of innovation and maturity. Because of this, the benefits can be hard to quantify reliably, and the costs and risks are not well understood.

There are also new challenges. The connected model requires road users to be suitably equipped with matching technologies. Moreover, many connected services require information from the vehicle, which puts a significant burden on data protection. CIMEC suggests that initial deployments are likely to focus on professional drivers in managed fleets (e.g. public transport and freight).

Although these are not trivial difficulties, they can be addressed through careful planning, phased implementation, realistic expectations and budgeting, and good project management. The potential wins are big, not just in terms of traffic operations but also politically: they showcase the city as progressive and as a "beacon" for new technology.

To enable cities to take full advantage of these opportunities, national and European policymakers need to do their bit by:

- Clarifying the legal environment;
- Collating a robust evidence base;
- Guiding the private sector;
- Establishing a suitable funding regime for cities, and;
- Facilitating technical support to cities as they begin their programmes.[3]

EU policy developments in this area

The C-ITS Deployment Platform

The European Commission decided in early 2014 to take a more prominent role in the deployment of connected driving by setting up a C-ITS Deployment Platform. The Platform is conceived as a cooperative framework including national authorities, C-ITS stakeholders and the Commission with a view to develop a shared vision on the interoperable deployment of C-ITS in the EU. Hence, it is expected to provide policy recommendations for the development of a roadmap and a deployment strategy for C-ITS in the EU and identify potential solutions to some critical cross-cutting issues.

By endorsing the Final Report of the first phase of the C-ITS Platform on 21 January 2016, the C-ITS Platform has achieved its first milestone towards connected and automated

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[3] Ibid.

vehicles in the EU. The Commission in consequence prepared the C-ITS Strategy for the Deployment of C-ITS, based on the recommendations of the platform.[4]

A first general conclusion that can be drawn from the activities of the C-ITS Platform is that a coordinated action in the EU is paramount: a unique legal and technical framework is essential and coordinated efforts to ensure quick uptake of C-ITS are requested.

A second general conclusion is urgency: the technology is ready, the industry is already deploying C-ITS equipped vehicles in other parts of the world and announced to be ready to deploy in the EU by 2019, provided that the aforementioned framework is in place sufficiently in time.

Regarding access to in-vehicle data and resources, a scenario-based analysis on legal, liability, technical, and cost-benefit aspects is required to further progress and also to help answering legislators' request regarding an open-access platform.[5]

The C-ITS Platform is now in its second phase and will accompany the deployment process with a special focus on the links between connectivity and automation, in particular in relation to infrastructure and road safety issues. The results of the C-ITS platform second phase on the topic of automation will feed into GEAR 2030, providing it with a transport system perspective.

Better journey planning and travel information

As part of its package 'Europe on the Move', the European Commission has developed proposals to enhance travel planning. Have you ever found yourself trying to plan a journey across Europe without knowing all the options for scheduled trains, planes, coaches and public transport? It is not always easy to get the right information about cross-border transport and connections.

The goal of this initiative is to solve this problem by establishing national access points with travel data from all types of transport. This data will then be made available to businesses such as service providers and developers, who would use it to build travel information websites, online journey planners, and other applications. As a result, new and more accurate services to plan journeys across Europe will be available to anyone who needs them.

All EU Member States have planned to set up National Access Points by 2019. National access points will gather travel information from scheduled trains, coaches, planes and public transport, from both private and public entities. Importantly, the data provided through the National Access Point needs to be in a common language.

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[4]   European   Commission   website,   accessed   July   20,   2017. https://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/its/c-its_en
[5] C-ITS Platform Final report (2016). https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/themes/its/doc/c-its-platform-final-report-january-2016.pdf