



Briefing note

IRF Policy Committee on Intelligent Transport Systems

Context

Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) contributes to all major road transport policy objectives. ITS plays an important role in safer roads and safer driving by helping to prevent accidents and mitigate their impacts. ITS applications also contribute to the enhanced operational sustainability and the environment. Through ITS, road networks can be operated and utilized more efficiently as an integrated transport network.

Despite a positive track record, ITS is suffering from a lack of both understanding and visibility to the larger public, politicians and policy makers. As a result, ITS has not or not fully been integrated in transport policies.

Proposal for an IRF Policy Committee on ITS

The IRF, as the principal road industry's association, should play a role in raising the profile of ITS with high level decision makers. The IRF network has always been an invaluable point of access to Ministers of Transport and other key figures in the policy formulation process. Furthermore ITS benefits should be made more widely known, and IRF can assist ITS associations and other ITS agents in this effort. This would comply with several dispositions in the IRF Statutes:

- "To promote the education and understanding of both the general public and governments throughout the world of the social, economic and environmental benefits which are derived from developing modern road networks, road transport systems and road traffic control;
- To provide educational and training programs relating to the development and maintenance of road and road transportation systems worldwide;
- To stimulate and support the regional and global harmonization of standards;
- To support research in all matters pertaining to road systems and in the betterment of economic, technical and scientific knowledge pertaining to such systems;
- To encourage and promote the improvement of the level of road safety through the application of appropriate road safety standards and guidelines."

The IRF proposes to initiate an IRF Policy Committee on ITS. Although the specific tasks of the Committee would still need to be elaborated, it is foreseen to have the following mandate:

- To advocate the role of ITS in reaching transport policy objectives with national and supra-national governmental institutions and politicians and to formulate recommendations for integrating ITS in general transport policies.
- To develop ITS deployment policies on international and national levels and assist governments and other institutions in formulating potential road maps to implementation of ITS systems.
- To support the development of financing models for ITS.
- To enhance the acceptability of ITS by the larger public and governments.
- To enhance knowledge exchange about ITS in general and evaluation outcomes of ITS systems in particular.

The Policy Committee will consist of high level officials, with one or more expert sub-committees.

The Committee aims to cooperate with relevant institutions (national associations and intergovernmental institutions) active in the field of ITS and formulate complementary (joint) actions when appropriate.

The IRF would like to invite representatives from the following organisations to join the Committee:

- Association of national ITS societies;
- Leading regional ITS associations like ITS America, ERTICO, ITS UK, ITS Arab, ITS Asia/Pacific;
- National ITS associations;
- European Commission;
- World Road Association (PIARC);
- World Bank;
- IBEC (the International Benefits Evaluation and Costs (of ITS) group);
- Regional Economic Commissions of the United Nations;
- Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) ;
- IRF Industry and Government members; and
- Other organisations with an interest (as corresponding members).

We look forward to an enriching discussion and encourage wide participation in this committee.



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