

Wei-Bin Zhang



Taking a Deeper Look

I would like to first wish you a happy and productive New Year. The year 2020 was marked as a special year, as the COVID-19 pandemic affected all aspects of our life as well as the IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Society's activities. As we continue together to navigate the uncertainties of COVID-19, the ITS Society is making steady progress on many fronts to provide valuable services to our members, profession, and community.

The 23rd IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Transportation Systems and the 31st IEEE Intelligent Vehicles Symposium were successfully organized in virtual format in fall 2020. The two flagship conferences are forums that bring together researchers, scientists, engineers, and industry professionals to discuss innovative ideas and diverse topics on the next generation of transportation technologies and applications.

The organizers worked very hard to turn the previously scheduled physical conferences into virtual events while maintaining engaging, interactive, and digital experiences for conference attendees. Many people contributed to the paper review and conference preparation. The rigorous paper-review processes added to the Society's efforts to maintain the high quality of our conference. On behalf of the IEEE ITS Society, I would like to thank the organizing committees for both meetings for making the virtual conferences a reality.

Due to the pandemic, the ITS Society has been taking a deeper look at ways to rearrange our flagship conferences as well as other activities to align them with the Society's fields of interest under the constraints we currently encounter. For the foreseeable future, the Society will need to adjust the ways we organize our conferences and revitalize our technical activities.

The year 2021 promises to be exciting, and I'm looking forward to working with you all. As a progressive and dynamic professional organization, we will further develop technical programs and activities that provide valuable services to our members, profession, and community. We look for broader involvement of our membership in Society activities and seek ideas and suggestions from you for the improvement of our technical activities and membership service. Together, through ITS Society activities, we can make lasting contributions to advances in technology innovations for a sustainable transportation solution.

Sincerely,

Wei-Bin Zhang
President, IEEE ITS Society



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