



ITS Society Conferences

The IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Society finally had its first experiences with virtual conferences. The 2020 IEEE ITS Conference (ITSC) was originally planned for the beautiful island of Rhodes, Greece. Unfortunately, COVID-19 made such a meeting impossible, and ITSC2020 became the first of our virtual meetings. The organizers had to work quickly to completely reorganize the event to handle 939 total paper submissions. In the end, 61% of the papers were accepted, and the large virtual meeting was a success, with 557 papers and 663 registered participants. This massive effort included more than 120 h of prerecorded videos presented over four days via Zoom to better accommodate our international community and, often, incompatible time zones.

Similarly, the IEEE Intelligent Vehicles (IV) Symposium was shifted into a fully virtual meeting after a first attempt to delay the dates for a hybrid conference. To complement the best efforts to have face-to-face interaction (through three different programs: normal in person, hybrid, and fully virtual), the Infovaya platform was selected for on-demand viewing of IV2020 material until

January 2021. In addition to on-demand content, Zoom virtual highlight sessions were scheduled over four weeks to retain IV's single-track feel and maximize the amount of interaction and schedule within comfortable local times. Register for on-demand access if you have not yet.

In addition to our two flagship meetings, three other meetings were held virtually. The 2020 IEEE Forum on Integrated and Sustainable Transportation Systems (FISTS2020) used the innovative Dryfta online platform (3–5 November). Virtual technical sessions were utilized by the 2020 IEEE International Conference on Intelligence and Security Informatics (ISI2020) (9–10 November) and the 2020 IEEE Vehicular Networking Conference (VNC2020) cosponsored with the IEEE Communications Society (16–18 December). We want to thank all of our conference organizers for their flexibility and hard work during this challenging time. As always, it is the tireless efforts of our volunteer community that make these meetings a success.

We are now planning our 2021 conference lineup with the hope of meeting again in person for IV2021 in Nagoya and ITSC2021 in Indianapolis. Site selection for the 2023 versions of IV and ITSC have been delayed until 2021, so there is still time for interested

parties to apply. Additionally, if you want to plan a smaller meeting in the nearer term, the full 2021 meeting slate is inviting proposals. For more information, see the proposal planning material online or contact vpconferences@ieee-itss.org.

Finally, we hope you are all staying healthy and safe. If you joined us for ITSC2020 or IV2020 (or even have experience from other conferences), please email and let us know your comments. What has worked, and what hasn't worked? The ITS Society will continue to ensure the well-being of our community and technical quality for our upcoming meetings, and we look forward to the time when we will be able to greet each other again in person.

ITS Society (Virtual) Conference Calendar

- **20–23 September:** ITSC2020, Rhodes, Greece (completed)
- **20–23 October:** IV2020, Las Vegas, Nevada (on-demand access until January 2021)
- **3–5 November:** FISTS2020
- **16–18 November:** ISI2020
- **16–18 December:** VNC2020

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