

ITS Berkeley Director's Letter

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ITS Berkeley leaders Alexandre Bayen, Michael Cassidy, and Daniel A. Rodriguez welcomed Assemblymember Buffy Wicks to campus August 19, 2019.



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It feels so good to be back in the swing of Fall semester. We had a great start to the academic year and met many new faces and welcomed back many more in the various programs that include transportation students. This year we have 115 master and doctoral students who identify with ITS Berkeley! We also have a few new lead researchers and affiliates to make 56 transportation leaders in our ranks! Stop by the first floor of McLaughlin Hall to see the full poster of our students, faculty and lead researchers. I am glad to see such enthusiasm at ITS, and I am excited for the busy schedule of the semester full of classes, seminars and projects!

Speaking of new projects, I would like to congratulate Susan Shaheen in her role as the Innovative Mobility Director of the University of California Institute of Transportation Studies. As director, she is leading the California Innovative Mobility Initiative (CA IMI), a University of California Institute of Transportation Studies (UC ITS) partnership with the State of California, local and regional governments, non-governmental organizations, and private-sector businesses. This new venture is focused on delivering impartial long-term research, policy analysis, knowledge exchange, and real-world technical assistance on the transition to connected, automated, electric, and shared mobility and other disruptions. This is an exciting new venture that has a great potential to impact future policies in California, the nation, and the world.


[Associate Director Daniel A. Rodriguez, Professor Michael Cassidy and I were fortunate enough to talk to about this project with Assemblymember Buffy Wicks on her most recent visit to campus last month.](#) She was very pleased to hear about our statewide leadership on this initiative. Wicks was also very interested in learning about our research on connected and automated pilots in California, the rise of navigational app induced congestion in residential streets, roles of transportation network companies in future last mile solutions for transit, and integrated corridor management projects in California. I really do enjoy meeting with our state officials to talk about the great work we are doing at ITS and the Centers. Thank you for all the important research you are all doing, which makes this part of my job so fun and easy!


As I look ahead into October, we have many exciting seminars and events ahead of us. I would like to remind all of you about the Sustainable Aviation Symposium coming up Oct. 7-8 on campus featuring experts from across the globe presenting the latest breakthroughs in electric aviation. <https://www.sasymposium.com/>. I am so appreciative of the College of Engineering who has stepped in to help reduce the cost of the symposium for students, now \$20 for the two-day event. UC Berkeley faculty are also being offered a discount too, check out the our [website](#) for discount codes. I hope to see you at this or one of our many fall semester events we have coming up!


Go Bears,


Alexandre Bayen
Director of Institute of Transportation Studies
Liao-Cho Professor of Engineering


HEADLINES


 Transportation Sustainability Research Center Co-Director, Civil and Environmental Engineering professor Susan Shaheen comments on [Waymo's robotaxi pilot surpassed 6 200 riders](#) in its first month in California at TechCrunch.


 Daniel Rodriguez, associate director of the Institute of Transportation Studies at UC Berkeley, comments on [California Dreamin': Cal-Loving State Faces Tough Transportation Choices](#) at Governing.


 Mark Hansen, professor of transportation engineering and co-director of the National Center of Excellence in Aviation Operations Research at the University of California at Berkeley comments on [You're Right, You're Spending More Time Sitting on That Plane](#) at the New York Times.

 ITS affiliate Ethan Elkind, director of the climate program at the Center for Law, Energy and the Environment at UC Berkeley's School of Law, talks about [Despite climate crisis, California continues to embrace exurban sprawl](#) at the SF Chronicle.

 Partners for Advanced Transportation Technology (PATH) at University of California Berkeley's Xiao Yun Lu, a research engineer, talks about [Driverless vehicles could have a huge impact someday, but probably not anytime soon](#) at Mississippi Business Journal.

 Ken Jacobs, chair of the UC Berkeley Labor Center comments on [Uber and Lyft launch anti-labor misinformation campaign in response to historic California bill](#) at Salon.

 Electrical Engineering and Computer Science professor Dawn Song talks about her AI work with traffic signs: [U.S. Military Researchers Work To Fix Easily Fooled AI](#) [\(link is external\)](#) at NPR.

 Transportation Sustainability Research Center data featured in [Lyft's New App Features Real-Time Public Transit Info](#) at City Lab.

NEWS



[McMillan Davis Inducted to CEE Academy of Distinguished Alumni](#)



[Sustainable Aviation Symposium Lands in Berkeley Oct. 7-8, 2019](#)



[Assemblymember Wicks Visits ITS](#)



[Multi-City Study Finds Traffic Congestion, Lack of Transit Access Associated with Depressive Symptoms](#)



[Your Navigation App Is Making Traffic Unmanageable](#)



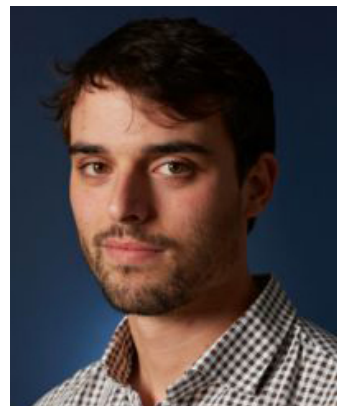
[Can the Sharing Economy be Leveraged in Disaster Relief?](#)



[Soga Named Bakar Fellow](#)



[GMS Announces Lecture Series](#)



[Argote to Give Fall CEE Distinguished Lecture](#)

EVENTS

September 27, 2019
[Reliably Accurate State Estimation for Connected and Autonomous Highway Vehicles](#)
Jay Farrell, 290 Hearst Memorial Mining Building
UC Riverside's Jay Farrell will present Reliably Accurate State Estimation for Connected and Autonomous Highway Vehicles on Sept. 27, 2019 at 4 p.m. in 290 Hearst Memorial Mining Building at the ITS Transportation Seminar.

October 4, 2019
[Towards Robust Machine Learning for Transportation Systems](#)
Nanyang Technological University's Justin Dauwels will present Towards Robust Machine Learning for Transportation Systems on Oct. 4, 2019 at 4 p.m. in 290 Hearst Memorial Mining Building at the ITS Transportation Seminar.

October 7 – 8, 2019
[Explore Urban Air Mobility \(UAM\) from every angle: Vehicles, Technology, Society, Sustainable Aviation Symposium 2019](#)
Sustainable Aviation Symposium 2019 (SAS) asks critical questions about equity in the future of air transit, through a holistic examination of technology, platforms, urbanism and other emerging topics. SAS will explore the ideas that will shape UAM and the global transition to accessible, safe, electric aviation for all. Registration required.

October 7, 2019
[BIDS Forum: Statistics and Machine Learning Forum](#)
The BIDS Forum: Statistics and Machine Learning Forum will take place Oct. 7 at 1:30-2:30 p.m. in 190 Doe Library. The Berkeley Statistics and Machine Learning Forum meets biweekly to discuss current applications across a wide variety of research domains and software methodologies.

October 9, 2019
[CITRIS Research Exchange - Reina Akkari](#)
The CITRIS Research Exchange Seminar will happen October 9 at 12-1 p.m. in Sutardja Dai Hall, Banatao Auditorium, 310. There is renewed interest among companies these days to implement and deploy AI models in their business processes either to increase automation, or to improve human productivity. AI models are making their way as chat bots in customer support scenarios, as doctors' assistants in hospitals, as legal research assistants in legal domain, as marketing manager assistants in marketing, and as face detection applications in security domain, just to name a few use cases.

October 11, 2019
[Human Mobility and Urban Resilience in America's Cities](#)
Northeastern University's Ryan Qi Wang will present Human Mobility and Urban Resilience in America's Cities at 4 p.m. Oct. 11 at the ITS Transportation Seminar in 290 Hearst Memorial Mining Building.

October 16, 2019
[Strategic Initiatives for Inland Movement of Containerized Imports at San Pedro Bay](#)
UC Berkeley's Rob Leachman will present Strategic Initiatives for Inland Movement of Containerized Imports at San Pedro Bay at 4 p.m. Oct. 25 at the ITS Transportation Seminar in 290 Hearst Memorial Mining Building.

KUDOS

If you would like to share a kudos about a co-worker who went above and beyond, email akaro@berkeley.edu to let everyone know about the good work ITS and Center employees are doing!

Stepping up
Helen Bashsham
Kudos to Helen Bashsham for stepping in to cover the ITS Berkeley front office and make sure the

