

**2023**

MIT MOBILITY INITIATIVE  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

*LEADING THE TRANSFORMATION TOWARDS TOMORROW'S MOBILITY SYSTEM*



# MIT MOBILITY **INITIATIVE**

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# MIT MOBILITY INITIATIVE MISSION

## MISSION

The MIT Mobility Initiative is a global platform to accelerate a safe, clean and inclusive mobility system through research, education, entrepreneurship and engagement



**The mobility system is undergoing profound transformation with new technologies colliding with new and evolving priorities and objectives including decarbonization, public health, and social justice. The time frame for these changes, decarbonization in particular, is short in a system with massive amounts of fixed, long-life assets and entrenched behaviors and cultures.**

*Anantha Chandrakasan, Dean,  
MIT School of Engineering*



**As cities grapple with the challenges of congestion, pollution, and vehicle-related fatalities, new mobility systems offer the possibility for dramatic urban transformation**

*Hashim Sarkis, Dean, MIT School  
of Architecture and Planning*



**MIT thinks about transportation, logistics, and mobility as a system, and that approach relies on people with a lot of different expertise such as urban planning, engineering, operations research to come together, like at MMI.**

*Cynthia Barnhart, Provost, MIT*



### Entrepreneurship

**Leverage MIT's innovation ecosystem to spin off mobility tech startups and support existing startups**



### Engagement

**Foster direct interaction with leaders from business and government on the "front lines" of the mobility revolution**



### Research

**Catalyze cross-disciplinary research that provides insight to strategic challenges for industry and society**



### Education

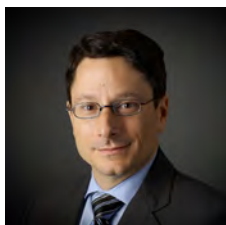
**Manage and enhance MIT's transportation degree programs and expand the executive education offering**

MIT MOBILITY INITIATIVE

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

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JOHN MOAVENZADEH  
Executive Director, MMI



JINHUA ZHAO  
Founder & Faculty Director, MMI

2022 was a challenging year for mobility. The tidal wave of SPACs in mobility technology startups abruptly abated. The collapse of Argo AI and headlines such as Business Week's cover story Even After \$100 Billion, Self-Driving Cars are Going Nowhere, contributed to an increasingly pessimistic sentiment.

Yet massive structural changes in mobility – from robotaxis to streets designed to prioritize people over cars – will come. Roy Amara, an MIT alum and former president of the Institute for the Future, famously said “we tend to overestimate the impact of technology in the short term, and underestimate the impact in the long term”. That feels like where we are with many mobility technologies today: wallowing in the trough of disillusionment of the hype cycle while progress relentlessly advances.

The MIT Mobility Initiative was founded as a global resource to accelerate the transition to a safe, clean and inclusive mobility system. Our mission is to ensure that technology benefits people. Among MMI's key accomplishments in 2022 toward achieving this mission:

We developed and advanced the MMI research agenda and deployed funding from our first three members to launch two research projects: Resiliency of V2X connectivity to cybersecurity threats, led by Prof Sanjay Sarma, and Quantifying autonomous mobility safety, led by Prof Cathy Wu. We published our first research briefing on US EV charging infrastructure reliability authored by David Keith and Jim Womack. We secured funding from the Energy Foundation to research Alternatives to the gas tax to finance transportation infrastructure with increased adoption of electric vehicles and proposed a transit research consortium under the leadership of Jim Aloisi.

We deepened MMI engagement and community through events and building relationships. We hosted our second annual Vision Day at the new headquarters of The Engine with record participation. We convened multiple members meetings and special workshops, such as our Energy-Mobility Dinner with AlphaStruxure and our ARPA-I workshop with The Engine and MIT Washington Office. We grew the on-line audience for our popular MMI Friday Forum series with strong participation from leading mobility thinkers. We launched and convened the MMI Global Advisory Board composed of senior executives from leading mobility and non-mobility businesses. We grew our membership base from 3 to 10 members, announcing our first cohort of five member companies (Hyundai, Ferrovial, Intel, Liberty Mutual, Toyota) with an MIT News article in July. We signed an agreement with Michigan Central to structure a long-term partnership and engage in research on two mobility topics.

We continued to advance MIT's transportation educational program, with courses such as Mobility Ventures entering the third year, and exploring executive education offerings with a large automotive OEM.

We look forward to MMI's role in shaping a better mobility future for all in 2023.

## MMI COMMUNITY & EVENTS

# MOBILITY VISION DAY 2022

*Setting a research agenda for the future of transportation*

On November 3rd, 2022, the Mobility Initiative hosted its second annual Vision Day. 110 in-person participants engaged in a rich and highly interactive series of discussions to shape the research agenda around five key topic areas: AV Safety, Connected Infrastructure, Electrification, Integration and Envisioning the future of mobility.

The second annual MMI Mobility Vision Day packed a large punch with rich discussion, new connections, and deep insights. The event saw nearly 110 attendees in person. 21 percent of attendees were CEOs or founders and all attendees had been carefully chosen to represent key perspectives and actively engage in an event with a clear purpose: to identify today's most pressing mobility challenges and develop a research agenda that can help move today's mobility system towards a future that is safe, clean, and inclusive.

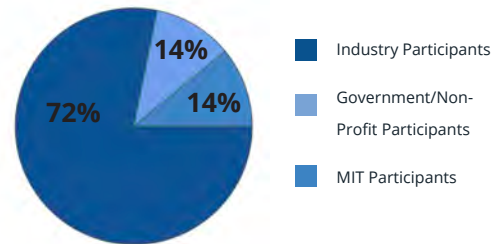
A series of rich discussions followed: each of the five core topics--first featured panel presentations followed by discussions on the panel content among all participants (centered at each round-table). Participants were encouraged to switch tables throughout the day in order to engage with new stakeholders and to enliven the exchanges.

Participants asked many of the key questions facing today's mobility system. How safe is safe enough in autonomy? Who should be investing in connected infrastructure? What role should each stakeholder take in driving electrification forward? How can we develop an effective framework for sharing and integration micromobility and Public Transit that is essential both for safety and system efficiency? What are the different spectra that we should be considering in order to ensure equity within a mobility system that is very much in flux? The Mobility Initiative team successfully captured the many nuances of the rich discussions, collecting research ideas, questions, and needs.





Mobility Vision Day 2022 was structured around participant discussions interspersed with expert panels. Attendees were encouraged to rotate tables throughout the day to engage with stakeholders from across the spectrum.



# MOBILITY VISION DAY SPEAKERS

## Building the Next Generation of Transportation Infrastructure

Dimitris Bountolos, Chief Information and Innovation Officer, Ferrovial  
Firas Ibrahim, Director, Office of Research Development and Technology, USDOT  
Sanjay Ravi, General Manager, Automotive, Mobility & Transportation Industry, Microsoft  
Sanjay Sarma, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, MIT  
Sameer Sharma, General Manager, Cities and Transportation, Intel

Moderated by Laura Chace, President and Chief Executive Officer, ITS America



## Autonomous Vehicles: How Safe Is Safe Enough?

David Blessing, Liberty Mutual Mobility Solutions Co-Lead, Liberty Mutual  
Ryan Harrington, Vice President of Safety, Motional  
Chris Mullen, Senior Director, Safety, Aurora  
Mark Rosekind, Chief Executive Officer, California Mobility Center  
Bernard Soriano, Deputy Director, California Dept of Motor Vehicles

Moderated by: Jane Lappin, Chairperson, TRB Standing Committee on Road Vehicle Automation, Transportation Research Board



## Electrification: Drivers of the Transformation

Steven Kaye, Chief Technology Officer, Our Next Energy (ONE)  
Juan Macias, Chief Executive Officer, AlphaStruxure  
Trent Mell, Chief Executive Officer, Electra Battery Materials  
Milo Werner, General Partner, The Engine

Moderated by: Alex Mitchell, Senior Vice President Unlocking Innovation, LA Cleantech Incubator (LACI)



## Mobility Integration: Public Transport and Micromobility

Daniel Berkovits, Vice President, Strategy, Via Transportation  
Assaf Biderman, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Superpedestrian  
David Block-Schachter, Chief Business Officer, Transit  
Molly Poppe, Chief Innovation Officer, Chicago Transit Authority

Moderated by: Jinhua Zhao, Founder & Faculty Director, MIT Mobility Initiative



## Envisioning our Collective Mobility Future

Diane Hoskins, Co-CEO, Gensler  
Josh Sirefman, Chief Executive Officer, Michigan Central  
Jamey Tesler, Secretary of Transportation, Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Andrew Wishnia, Asst Deputy Secretary for Climate Policy, US Dept of Transportation

Moderated by John Moavenzadeh, Executive Director, MIT Mobility Initiative





# MMI: BY THE NUMBERS

110

*Mobility Vision Day Attendees*

14,000

*Mobility Initiative Followers*

32

*Transportation Courses Offered*

102

*Mobility Initiative Events*

8

*New MMI Members added in 2022*

250

*Average Mobility Forum Attendance*

# MOBILITY FORUM

## SPEAKERS: SPRING 2022



### Efficient Deep Learning for Automotive Applications

**Song Han**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science

February 11, 2022



### Regional Air Mobility: Initial Thoughts

**David Mindell**  
Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics & Dibner Professor of the History of Engineering and Manufacturing

February 18, 2022



### Bumps along the Road to Widespread Adoption of Electric Vehicles

**Donald Sadoway**  
John F. Elliott Professor of Materials Chemistry

February 25, 2022



### Transit Oriented Development in Disruptive Time

**Robert Cervero**  
Professor Emeritus of City & Regional Planning, UC Berkeley

March 4, 2022



### The Impact of Data Science on Freight Transportation Procurement

**Chris Caplice**  
Executive Director, Center for Transportation & Logistics

March 11, 2022



### Making Roads Safer by Making Drivers Better

**Hari Balakrishnan**  
Fujitsu Professor of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

March 18, 2022



### Shared Mobility and Automated Vehicles: Responding to Socio-Technical Changes and Pandemics

**Susan Shaheen**  
Professor In-Residence, Energy, Civil Infrastructure and Climate, Transportation Engineering, UC Berkeley

March 25, 2022



### Highway construction and displacement in African American neighborhoods: 1940-2000

**Brent Ryan**  
Head of the City Design and Development Group and Associate Professor of Urban Design and Public Policy, Department of Urban Studies and Planning

April 1, 2022



### Human-Centered Driving Research at Toyota Research Institute

**John Leonard**  
Samuel C. Collins Professor of Mechanical and Ocean Engineering, Department of Mechanical Engineering

April 8, 2022



### Future of Work and Urban Mobility

**Jinhua Zhao**  
Director, MIT Mobility Initiative and Associate Professor of City and Transportation Planning, Department of Urban Studies and Planning

April 15, 2022



### Certifiable Perception Algorithms and High-level Scene Understanding for Autonomous Vehicles

**Luca Carlone**  
Leonardo Career Development Associate Professor, Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics

April 22, 2022



### Transportation from Earth to Space and back - latest developments

**Olivier de Weck**  
Apollo Program Professor of Aeronautics and Engineering Systems

April 29, 2022

# MOBILITY FORUM SPEAKERS: FALL 2022



## Shifting Gears

**Susan Handy**  
Professor, Department of Environmental Science and Policy at the University of California at Davis

September 16, 2022 at 9:30:00 PM



## Public Transit in the US : Challenges & Opportunities

**Jim Aloisi & Fred Salvucci**  
Lecturer of Transportation Policy and Planning & Senior Lecturer and Senior Research Associate

September 23, 2022 at 9:30:00 PM



## Tough To Decarbonize Transportation : MIT Climate Grand Challenge

**Steven Barrett & Bill Green**  
Director, Laboratory for Aviation and the Environment & Hoyt C. Hottel Professor in Chemical Engineering

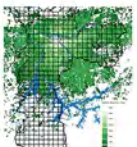
September 30, 2022 at 9:30:00 PM



## The Future Of Working From Home

**Prof. Nicholas Bloom**  
William D. Eberle Professor of Economics , Stanford

October 7, 2022 at 9:30:00 PM



## Roads, Transit, and the Denseness of São Paulo's Urban Development

**Chris Zegras, Adriano Borges Costa, Siqi Zheng**  
Professor of Mobility and Urban Planning, Department Head DUSP & Post-doctoral Researcher & STL Champion Professor of Urban and Real Estate Sustainability

October 14, 2022 at 9:30:00 PM



## Credit-based Congestion Pricing for Win-Win Traffic Solutions

**Kara Kockelman**  
Dewitt Greer Centennial Professor of Transportation Engineering at UT, Austin

October 21, 2022 at 9:30:00 PM



## VISTA 2.0: An Open, Data- driven Simulator for Multimodal Sensing and Policy Learning for Autonomous Vehicles

**Daniela Rus & Alexander Amini**  
Andrew (1956) and Erna Viterbi Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Director of the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL) at MIT & Postdoctoral Researcher in the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL)

October 28, 2022 at 9:30:00 PM



## New paths for solving emergent problems of the EV sector

**John Paul MacDuffie**  
Professor of Management, Wharton

November 11, 2022 at 10:30:00 PM



## Flexibility and coordination in on-demand transportation: from ride-sharing to micromobility

**Alex Jacquillat**  
Assistant Professor, Operations Research and Statistics

November 18, 2022 at 10:30:00 PM



## Entry and Coordination in the U.S. Electric Vehicle Charging Industry

**Jing Li**  
William Barton Rogers Career Development Professor of Energy Economics

December 2, 2022 at 10:30:00 PM



## EV Policy and Regulation As Seen by a Regulator, Academic, and Policy Wonk

**Dan Sperling**  
Founding Director, ITS-Davis; Distinguished Blue Planet Prize Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Environmental Science

December 9, 2022 at 10:30:00 PM




## The Supply of AVs in Open Platforms

**Daniel Freund**  
Assistant Professor of Operations Management

December 16, 2022 at 10:30:00 PM



# MOBILITY FORUM SPEAKERS: SPRING 2023




## Envisioning Profitable Autonomous Transit Networks

It has been almost 20 years since the DARPA "SmartDrivingCar" Challenges and 15 years since Google jumped in with the objective of ...

[Read more](#)

**Alain Kornhauser**  
Professor of Operations Research & Financial Engineering  
Director, Transportation Program, Princeton university

February 17, 2023 at 12:00:00 PM



## Telemobility, Hybrid Work and the Next Normal

The world has changed considerably for transportation planners since April 2020—and it is still changing, in many ways that are fundamental to ...

[Read more](#)

**Hani Mahmassani**  
W. A. Patterson Chair in Transportation; Director, Northwestern University Transportation Center

February 24, 2023 at 12:00:00 PM



## Tectonic shifts in science, technology, and industrial policy: looking ahead

Several factors are converging to drive a new industrial revolution in the U.S. and beyond. Advances in manufacturing technologies are reducing ...

[Read more](#)

**Liz Reynolds & David Mindell**  
Lecturer, DUSP, MIT; Former Special Assistant to the President for Manufacturing and Economic Development at the National Economic Council & MIT Professor, Executive Chairman at Humatics, Co-founder at Unless

March 3, 2023 at 12:00:00 PM



## Modelling Sustainable Options - the importance of habit and perceptions

Habit and its potential hysteresis effect, have been recognized as difficult problems in travel demand modelling and forecasting for over 45 years. ...

[Read more](#)

**Juan de Dios Ortuzar**  
Emeritus Professor at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

March 10, 2023 at 12:00:00 PM




## The case against transportation policy priority one being electrified personal cars

At the COP in Glasgow, in the Inflation Reduction Act (the US's largest infrastructure commitment since Eisenhower), in wealth country subsidie...

[Read more](#)

**Robin Chase**  
co-founder and former CEO of Zipcar, Buzzar and GoLoco

March 17, 2023 at 12:00:00 PM




## From Reinforcement Learning to Sequential Decision Analytics with Applications in Transportation and Logistics

Sequential decision problems are an almost universal problem class, spanning dynamic resource allocation problems, control problems, ...

[Read more](#)

**Warren Powell**  
Professor Emeritus at Princeton University, Chief Innovation Officer at Optimal Dynamics

March 24, 2023 at 12:00:00 PM




## How safe is safe enough for Autonomous Vehicles

A pressing question for deploying autonomous vehicles is: will they be safe enough? The usual answer of "at least as safe as a human driver" ...

[Read more](#)

**Philip Koopman**  
Associate Professor, Carnegie Mellon University, Author - How Safe Is Safe Enough? Measuring and Predicting Autonomous Vehicle Safety

March 31, 2023 at 12:00:00 PM



## Moving from Citations to Collective Wisdom in Travel Behavior Research

This talk focuses on the disconnect between the incentives for academic researchers and the production of collective wisdom to inform ...

[Read more](#)

**Joan Walker**  
Professor, Dept of Civil and Environmental Engineering, UC Berkeley

April 7, 2023 at 12:00:00 PM

# MOBILITY FORUM

## SPEAKERS: SPRING 2023



### What about pedestrians in urban mobility

After a century of car-oriented urban growth, cities around the world are implementing policies and plans that aim to make their neighborhoods ...  
[Read more](#)

**Panel : Andres Sevtsuk, Peter Norton & Kris Carter**  
Associate Professor of Urban Science and Planning, MIT,  
Associate Professor of History Department of Engineering and Society, University of Virginia, & Chair, New Urban Mechanics, City of Boston

April 14, 2023 at 12:00:00 PM



### Last-mile logistics on steroids: how to connect humans, machines, and algorithms to deliver to the future needs of consumers

Dr. Matthias Winkenbach, Director of the MIT Megacity Logistics Lab, will discuss how novel technologies and advanced algorithms can enable ...  
[Read more](#)

**Matthias Winkenbach**  
Director of the MIT Megacity Logistics Lab & Research Scientist at the MIT Center for Transportation & Logistics

April 21, 2023 at 12:00:00 PM



### Traffic Management Challenges in Advanced Air Mobility

Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) operations—characterized by electric and hybrid aircraft, and highly-automated or even autonomous operations—...  
[Read more](#)

**Hamsa Balakrishnan**  
William E. Leonhard (1940) Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics, MIT

April 28, 2023 at 12:00:00 PM



### AI and Public Transit

Prof. Zhao and MIT Transit Lab researchers will showcase three sets of A.I. applications in public transportation: prediction, monitoring, and control...  
[Read more](#)

**Jinhua Zhao**  
Director, MIT Mobility Initiative and Associate Professor of City and Transportation Planning, Department of Urban Studies and Planning

May 5, 2023 at 12:00:00 PM



### Entrepreneurship Returning to Automotive Industry: Electric Vehicle as a case study

Innovation and Entrepreneurship (I&E) often go together. Following the 19th Century product innovations of Karl Benz, the most important auto ...  
[Read more](#)

**Charlie Fine**  
Chrysler Leaders for Global Operations Professor of Management at MIT Sloan

May 12, 2023 at 12:00:00 PM



*Photo top*

*Graduate students, research scientists, and faculty members from MIT's Urban Mobility Lab at TRB Jan 2023.*

*Photo bottom*

*The MIT Dome at night.*

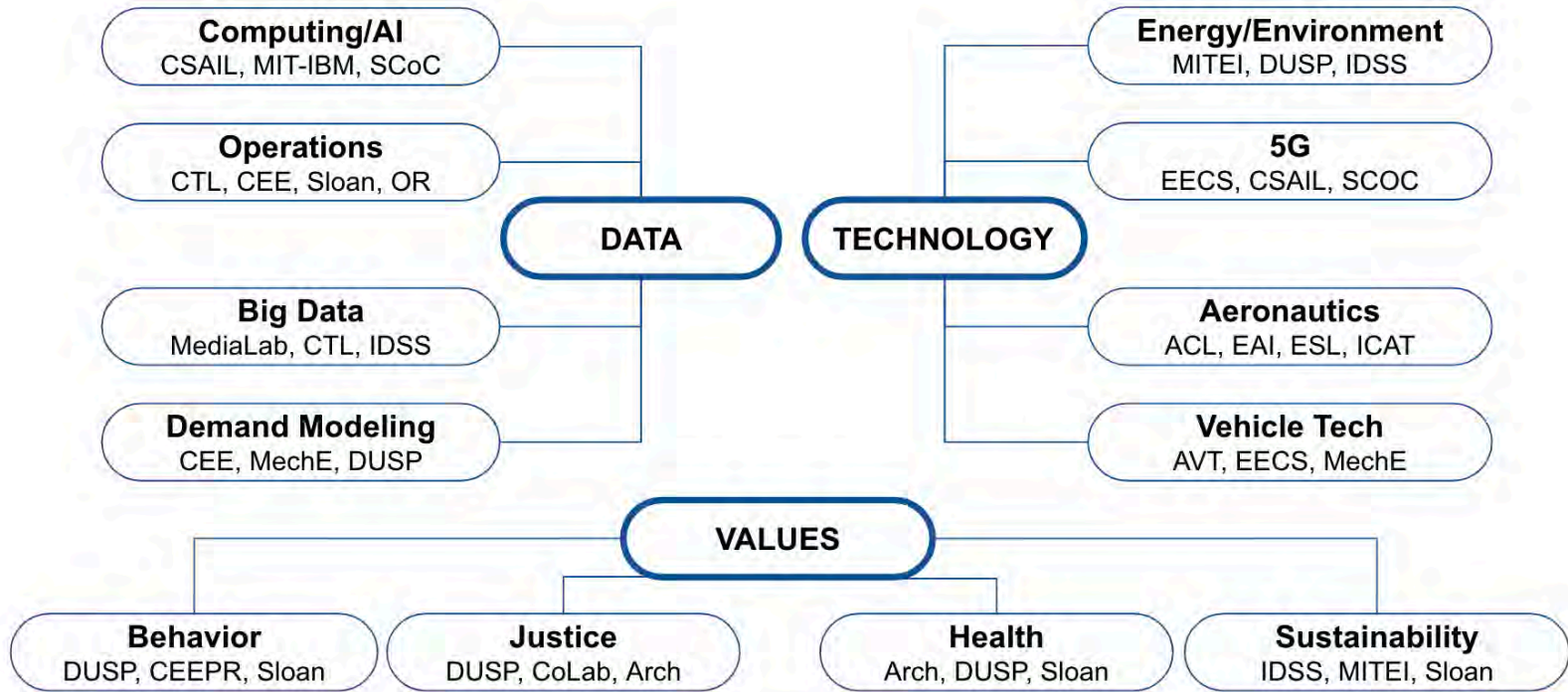


## MOBILITY INITIATIVE **RESEARCH**

*Groundbreaking mobility insights*

*MIT has a rich array of on-going research in the mobility space. MIT Mobility Initiative faculty members hail from departments as diverse as Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Chemical Engineering, the Sloan School of Business, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Urban Planning, and more. The Mobility Initiative is a central node for exchange and access to MMI faculty members' research, as well as an independent hub for cross-disciplinary research through its research consortia.*

# MMI RESEARCH FRAMEWORK MAPPED TO MIT SCHOOLS, DEPARTMENTS & LABS



AVT: Advanced Vehicle Technology Consortium; CEE: Civil and Environmental Engineering; CSAIL: Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence Laboratory; CTL: Center for Transportation and Logistics; DUSP: Department of Urban Studies and Planning; EECS: Electrical Engineering & Computer Science; MechE: Mechanical Engineering; OR: Operations Research; SCoC: Schwarzman College of Computing; IDSS: Institute for Data, Systems, and Society; ACL: Aerospace Controls Laboratory.

## MMI RESEARCH CONSORTIA

### Cross-disciplinary research

**Research Consortia are the core of the MIT Mobility Initiative. Research Consortia gather public and private stakeholders from across the globe to conduct research on the most pressing and relevant topics within mobility. The output of the roundtables is used to guide policy, shape standards, coordinate across actors, and, ultimately, accelerate the transformation towards a safe, clean and inclusive mobility system.**

Research Consortia offer a unique opportunity for coordination across diverse stakeholders (from multiple industries, academia, and governments) to better chart a path forward in the new world of mobility. Research Consortia support a portfolio of research projects that can help us better understand today's trends and offer new and innovative ways to shape the future.

In addition to rich discussions among and between participants, there are two types of products produced by Research Consortia: **Primary Research Projects** submitted and conducted by MIT faculty members and **Research Briefings** presenting in-depth overviews of selected topics, including technologies or methodologies related to that topic; insights into the various theories or approaches pertinent to that topic; and recommended areas for future research.

## FACULTY RESEARCH

### On-going knowledge development

**MMI Faculty Members conduct research across a wide array of fields ranging from urban planning to machine learning to operations research and beyond. MMI is the central location to keep a finger on the pulse of all groundbreaking mobility-related projects, ideas & innovations at the Institute.**

The above graphic conveys the rich array of on-going research at the Institute. An inherently cross-disciplinary subject matter, transportation touches on many traditional disciplines. Ongoing research can be placed into three overarching buckets that together enable a systems approach to mobility: data (exploring modeling, optimization, artificial intelligence & machine learning), technology (developing sensors, batteries, 5G, and more) and values (examining behavior, health, equity, and sustainability).

The MMI is at the center of aggregating this on-going research by approaching the analysis of key areas with a systems lens. MIT has long thrived as an epicenter of systems analysis--a methodology that is particularly pertinent for the complexity of today's mobility system in order to develop a comprehensive understanding that can lead to the design of safe, clean, inclusive, efficient & robust systems and networks.

# RESEARCH PORTFOLIO - Autonomous & Connected Mobility

*Launched March 2022 with two fully-funded research projects being extended to Year 2.*

## **Overarching Research Questions:**

- 1.) Determining acceptable levels of risk**
- 2.) Identifying opportunities for V2X value**
- 3.) Ensuring cybersecurity of V2X**



**Research Project:  
Collective Sensing as an  
Enabler for Cyber-resilient  
Connected Mobility  
Sanjay Sarma  
Dajiang Suo**



**Research Project:  
Safety as a Performance  
Metric in Autonomous  
Mobility  
Cathy Wu  
Ao Qu**



# RESEARCH PORTFOLIO - Electrification Grand Challenges

*Launched April 2022 with one project and one published research brief.*

**Overarching Research Questions:**

- 1.) Exploring challenges related to EV charging infrastructure**
- 2.) Replacing declining gas tax revenue**
- 3.) Security of battery materials, recycling/reuse of batteries**



**Research Briefing:  
EV Charging Infrastructure  
Reliability  
Charlie Fine  
David Keith  
Jim Womack**



**Research Project:  
Replacing Declining Gas  
Tax Revenue  
with EV Adoption  
Jim Aloisi  
Bhuvan Atluri  
Jinhua Zhao  
Yunhan Zheng  
Seamus Joyce-Johnson**

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## RESEARCH PORTFOLIO - MMI Transit Research Consortium

**Goals:**

***Launched Dec 2022 with a one year long project and multiple knowledge sharing workshops.***

***Facilitate exchange of best practices among large public transit agencies and conduct research on shared topics of interest.***

***Current Members - CTA, King County Metro, LA Metro, MBTA, NY MTA, SFMTA, WMATA***



**Research Project:  
Transit Rider Return &  
Growth**

**Jim Aloisi  
Bhuvan Atluri  
Jinhua Zhao  
Anson Stewart  
Haris Koutsopoulos**

## INDUSTRY MEMBERS

The future of mobility is shaped within a complex and highly dynamic ecosystem of startups, established transportation companies, Big Tech, and a myriad of firms large and small across the industrial spectrum. Governments at all levels - from cities to international bodies - are also actively rewriting the legal and regulatory frameworks for mobility. MIT recognizes the importance of engaging with the business, startup and government leaders who are "on the front lines" of the mobility revolution. Business participation in the MMI is through membership. MMI counts among its members global firms from across the industrial spectrum, from automotive to technology to infrastructure to energy to insurance to public transportation.

### EXPLORATORY FOUNDING MEMBERS



### AFFILIATE MEMBERS



### PUBLIC TRANSIT AGENCY MEMBERS



## MOBILITY INITIATIVE EDUCATION



### *Largest and Most Diverse Mobility Ventures Cohort for Fall 2022 - 39 students - 20% larger than 2020/21*

- 10 from Sloan
- 13 from Harvard
- 13 from MIT

#### *Instructors:*

- *Jinhua Zhao*
- *John Moavenzadeh*
- *Jenny Larios Berlin*

*TA: Bhuvan Atluri*

*Educating the leaders of tomorrow's transportation system*

Led by MIT's Mobility Initiative, the Institute's cross-disciplinary **graduate program** in transportation provides a variety of graduate degrees for students interested in transportation studies and research. Students choose from a wide range of introductory and advanced subjects related to transportation and engage with real-world projects and challenges resulting in an education that prepares them to be the leaders of tomorrow's transportation system.

**MIT offers over 30 courses related to transportation across a wide array of disciplines**, including computer science, operations research, civil engineering, urban planning, and more. 2022 saw the introduction of new coursework to address the changes in today's transportation system, including Mobility Ventures, Decarbonizing Urban Mobility, and Entrepreneurship in Aerospace and Mobility Systems.

**Mobility Ventures** explores technological, behavioral, policy and systems-wide frameworks for innovation in transportation systems, complemented with case studies across the mobility spectrum, from autonomous vehicles to urban air mobility to last-mile sidewalk robots. **Decarbonizing Urban Mobility** focuses on measuring and reducing emissions from passenger transportation including reviewing existing approaches to transport decarbonization and evaluating new mobility technologies through their potential to contribute to (or delay) a zero emission mobility system. And **Entrepreneurship in Aerospace and Mobility Systems** examines concepts and procedures for new venture creation in aerospace and mobility systems, and other arenas where safety, regulation, and infrastructure are significant components.

The applicant pool for the 2022/2023 academic year was the largest one to date, underscoring the growing importance of the field of transportation and the value of our emphasis placed on cross-disciplinary education. Program requirements have been updated to reflect the diverse array of students engaged in the program. Masters students are required to learn foundational skills and take courses in analytics & computation and policy, technology, and society.

## SPOTLIGHT STUDENTS

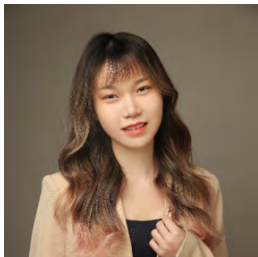
*Educating the leaders of tomorrow's transportation system*

### **Dan O'Neil**



Dan is a second-year master's student in the JTL/Transit Lab who will be graduating this spring. His undergraduate degree is from the University of Oregon. Prior to MIT, he briefly spent time in economic consulting before moving into transportation and going to work for TriMet and C-TRAN, two public transit agencies in the Portland, Oregon area. Dan's research is centered on the confluence of post-pandemic transit use and agency fare policies. He is interested in the impacts of transit costs and fare product design on travel volumes, transportation funding, and rider equity. To understand these complex interactions, he leverages existing automated data collection systems, synthesizing disparate sources to provide both more granular insight on journeys at an individual level and greater clarity on aggregate impacts across rider segments.

### **Jiayu (Kamessi) Zhao**



Kamessi is a third-year PhD student in the Operations Research Center at MIT, advised by Prof. Daniel Freund. Before she joined MIT, she graduated Summa Cum Laude from Columbia University in 2020 with a B.S. degree in Operations Research. Kamessi's research focuses on dynamic decision-making in revenue management and market design. She is mostly interested in transportation and online marketplaces, with her works spanning both (1) traditional operations management (OM) problem such as the overbooking control in the airline industry, and (2) modern applications such as contracting for autonomous vehicles supply chain. She aims to develop and apply OM methodologies to solve issues that emerge in modern transportation settings.

### **Leann Thayaparan**



Leann Thayaparan is a 4th year PhD student in the Operations Research Center. Prior to becoming a PhD student Leann worked for McKinsey. She received her undergraduate degree from Princeton University and her Masters degree in Business Analytics from MIT Sloan. Her research focuses on sustainability and electric vehicles and how optimization and machine learning can make a difference. Energy storage in electric vehicles (EVs) is likely to play a major role in the transition as the electric grid attempts to move towards net-zero emissions. In this research, we collaborate with a major American electric vehicle manufacturer to understand the capacity EVs can offer the grid through modelling driver behavior and optimizing charging patterns. Through this work we aim to help stakeholders understand the potential that individual drivers can offer the grid.

### **Rounaq Basu**



Dr. Rounaq Basu works on sustainable city planning, integrated urban systems, and relationships among mobility access, economic opportunity, and quality of life. He is particularly interested in ways to reduce dependence on private automobiles without forgoing their accessibility benefits. We need to balance the sustainable mobility transition with equity progress that enables safe, affordable mobility and improved accessibility for all. Rounaq's research addresses this complex challenge by conceptualizing cities as integrated urban systems, at the center of which is mobility. He uses a theoretically-grounded analytic lens to explore pathways to accelerate the sustainable mobility transition from the individual-level up to the city-level.

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## SPOTLIGHT STUDENTS

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*Educating the leaders of tomorrow's transportation system*

### **Steven La**



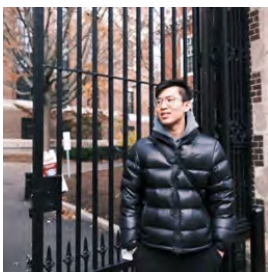
Steven has a passion in Transit Oriented Development with a global reach from Australia, Hong Kong and the United States. He holds a Masters of Science in Real Estate Development from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Masters of Construction Law from the University of Melbourne and a Bachelor of Civil Engineering from the University of Sydney. The transportation and real estate industries together account for up to 55% of the world's global greenhouse gas emissions. The convergence of these two sectors through the form of Transit Oriented Developments can yield substantial benefits that can contribute to the fight against climate change. Steven's thesis investigated greener and cheaper financing options for Transit Oriented Developments which can be more attractive to developers and thus can help promote more and higher quality TODs to build cities which are less car centric.

### **Steven Parks**



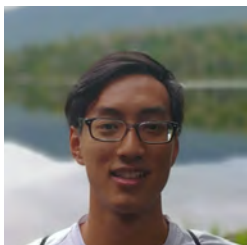
Steven is a third-year PhD Candidate at the Megacity Logistics Lab in the Center for Transportation and Logistics. He holds an M.S. in Transportation Engineering from U.C. Berkeley and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Santa Clara University. Steven's work employs optimization and data science techniques to design recurring last-mile delivery routes that follow similar paths on city road networks from day to day. The methodology he is developing leverages historical package demand knowledge to create consistency and predictability for both drivers and customers. As E-commerce demand climbs and, in response, delivery strategies become more complex, this work could help logistics service providers streamline the daily route-planning process.

### **Xiaotong Guo**



Xiaotong is a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the Transportation program at MIT, advised by Prof. Jinhua Zhao. Before joining MIT, Xiaotong completed an M.S. degree in Transportation Systems Engineering from Cornell University and a B.E. degree in Traffic Engineering from Tongji University. His research interests lie in building a robust integrated urban mobility system, with a specific focus on public transit and shared mobility systems. He has been working on 1) shared mobility market structures and drivers' multihoming behaviors, 2) robust vehicle rebalancing in ride-hailing, 3) planning responses to uncertainty in transit, and 4) integrated transit and ride-sharing system design. His research leverages large-scale discrete optimization techniques and machine learning techniques to solve real-world urban transportation problems.

### **Zhongxia "Zee"**



YanZee is a 5th year PhD student in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science department. Prior to joining MIT, he received his Bachelor's and Master's degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at UC Berkeley. Zee's research focuses on the potential of machine learning for better coordination of multi-vehicles systems in today's increasingly automated world. These systems include congestion-reducing autonomous vehicles in the traffic system, delivery vehicles for fulfilling customer orders, and mobile robots for transporting goods within automated warehouses. More efficient coordination of vehicles will ultimately reduce travel time and emissions in transportation systems, reduce operating costs, and improve throughput in industrial and commercial systems.

# MOBILITY INITIATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

*Driving innovation & change in the field of mobility*

Innovation has existed in the genes of MIT since its very founding and is one of the core pillars of the MIT Mobility Initiative. We are engaging with a wide array of entrepreneurs via new coursework related to entrepreneurship, and mentor-ship of early stage mobility innovators across the Institute.

As one of the nation's first land-grant colleges, MIT was designed to deliver a practical education—one that emphasizes learning by doing and prioritizes developing solutions to complex (yet invariably compelling) problems. The MIT Mobility Initiative has internalized this ethos, emphasizing innovation and real-world implementation as part of its educational programs and ecosystem engagement: over 15 start-ups participated in November's Mobility Vision Day.

The Mobility Initiative partners with a wide array of entities across MIT's existing robust entrepreneurial ecosystem to help support mobility-specific innovation.



**Mobility is one of today's most exciting fields for entrepreneurs. From technology to new business models, there is a large appetite for disruption across the world of mobility.**

Bill Aulet, Director of the Trust Center for Entrepreneurship, co-instructs Mobility Ventures, a course that gives students from a wide array of disciplines the tools to identify core gaps in the mobility system and to develop business plans for how to fill them.

## PARTNERS



A unique initiative that involves academic courses, data-informed research, and an entrepreneurship program, **DesignX** supports innovation that aims to transform cities and the built environment.



The **Martin Trust Center** supports students with an entrepreneurship curriculum, programming, coaching and mentoring from connections in the broader entrepreneurial MIT communities.



**The Innovation Initiative** works to combine opportunities for hands-on innovation and entrepreneurship education at MIT, building a dynamic innovation infrastructure across Schools and disciplines.

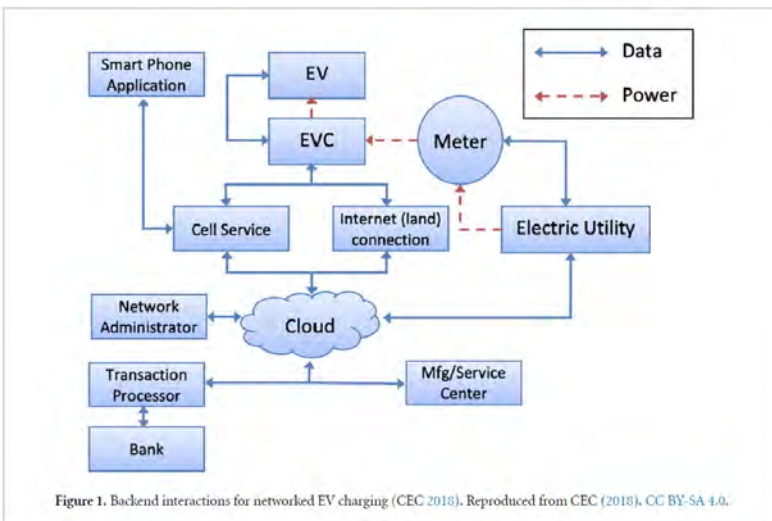
# MOBILITY INITIATIVE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

*Building a better world*

Partnerships with public sector and non-profit stakeholders to help effect real-world impact lie at the core of the Mobility Initiative. MMI undertook an array of high impact projects in 2022 on topics ranging from researching and publishing a EV charger reliability brief paper to forming a public transit research consortium with the 6 largest public transit agencies in the US.

At the Mobility Initiative, we work to offer cutting edge analysis, research, and innovation in service to society. This involves working with governments, organizations, and students to build a better world through social, environmental, and technological change. As part of that mission, the Mobility Initiative engages with cities and communities to better understand their challenges and to offer platforms and solutions to address their needs.

We published our first research briefing on US EV charging infrastructure reliability authored by David Keith and Jim Womack. A well functioning, reliable public charging network is key to the adoption of Electric Vehicles, and the MMI is working with various public & private stakeholders to ensure the transition from ICE vehicles to EVs is a successful and equitable one.



Environ. Res. Lett. 18 (2023) 011004 <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/acae39>

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH LETTERS**

**PERSPECTIVES**

**Building and sustaining reliable public EV charging in the United States**

**OPEN ACCESS**

**David Keith** and **Jim Womack**  
 MIT Mobility Initiative, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, United States of America  
 \* Author to whom any correspondence should be addressed.  
 E-mail: [dkeith@mit.edu](mailto:dkeith@mit.edu)

**RECEIVED** 20 October 2022  
**REVISED** 8 December 2022  
**ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION** 23 December 2022  
**PUBLISHED** 11 January 2023

**Keywords:** electric vehicles, EV charging, infrastructure, reliability



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## MOBILITY INITIATIVE

# Dan and Eva Roos Thesis Prize

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The MIT Mobility Initiative is soliciting nominations for the 2023 Dan and Eva Roos Thesis Prize to be awarded to the outstanding MIT PhD dissertation in the field of transportation. Doctoral dissertations meeting the following criteria are eligible for consideration:

The dissertation should have been completed and submitted as part of the degree lists from September 2021-June 2023. The dissertation is in the area of transportation and mobility, broadly defined. It can be submitted to any department or PhD-granting program at MIT, and can address any aspect of transportation systems (e.g., research related to any mode of transport; passenger or freight transportation; theoretical or applied problems; technological, economic, planning or policy analysis; etc.)

The award is hosted by MIT's Mobility Initiative (MMI).

### Application Process

Submit the following documents via email to Bhuvan Atluri (bpatluri@mit.edu) by June 30, 2023:

- CV of the student
- A pdf copy of the complete dissertation
- An extended abstract (4 to 5 pages) describing the work, its contributions, and the relevance.
- A letter of nomination from the dissertation supervisor supporting the submission and highlighting the importance of the research

### Prize Selection Committee 2023

Prof. Amedeo Odoni

Prof. Alexandre Jacquillat

Prof. Jinhua Zhao (Chair)

### Timeline:

Announcement: April 27, 2023

Application due: Jun 30, 2023

Result announcement: Aug 25, 2023

***Awardees are invited to present at the MIT Mobility Forum in Fall 2023***

### *Prizes in the Prior Years*

#### *2021:*

***Winner: Dr. Shenhao Wang, Deep Neural Networks for Choice Analysis***

#### *Honorary Mentions:*

***Dr. Arthur Delarue: Optimizing School Operations***

***Dr. Wilko Schwarting: Learning and Control for Interactions in Mixed Human-Robot Environments***

***Prize Selection Committee: Yossi Sheffi, Cindy Barnhart, Alexandre Jacquillat, Jinhua Zhao (Chair)***

#### *2018:*

***Winner: Dr. Gabriel Kreindler***

***"Essays on the Economics of Urban Transportation" (Extended Abstract | Full Thesis)***

***Prize Selection Committee: Ali Jadbabaie, Yossi Sheffi, Hamsa Balakrishnan, Co-Chair, Jinhua Zhao, Co-Chair***

## MORE 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

*Photos from left to right,  
top to bottom:*

*Mobility Vision Day  
participants discuss how  
safe is safe for  
autonomous vehicles.*



*Mujeeb Ijaz, Founder &  
CEO, Our Next Energy,  
offers insights on  
batteries & electrification  
to Mobility Ventures  
students.*



*Kyle Vogt, CEO, Cruise,  
talks about his journey  
and also about the AV  
industry to Mobility  
Ventures Students.*

*July 26, 2022 - Imagining  
ARPA-I workshop hosted  
by MMI with The Engine*



# MOBILITY INITIATIVE TEAM

*Faculty & leadership*

## MMI FACULTY

### Overview

The Mobility Initiative includes over 75 faculty members and researchers from across the Institute. Faculty members engage in activities across all four Mobility Initiative pillars, including research, education, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement. More details about MMI faculty can be found at [mmi.mit.edu/mi-people](http://mmi.mit.edu/mi-people).



## MMI LEADERSHIP



### JINHUA ZHAO

#### Founder & Faculty Director

Jinhua is Professor of City and Transportation Planning at MIT and Director of the MIT Mobility Initiative. He brings behavioral science and transportation technology together to shape travel behavior, design mobility system, and reform urban policies, developing methods to sense, predict, nudge, and regulate travel behavior



### JOHN MOAVENZADEH

#### Executive Director

John is Executive Director of the MIT Mobility Initiative, where he developed and co-teaches the graduate-level Mobility Ventures course. John is also Founder and Managing Partner at Mobility Nexus LLC, Operator Advisor at Assembly Ventures, and serves as an independent advisor to several companies leading the transformation of transportation.



### BHUVAN ATLURI

#### Program Manager

Bhuvan Atluri is Program Manager at the MIT Mobility Initiative. Bhuvan is a mobility & automotive technology enthusiast who is extremely passionate about solving the problems mobility faces today. He has interests across Electric Vehicle Adoption & Charging Equity, Autonomous Mobility & Safety, and Multi-Modal Urban Mobility. He brings to the role 11 years of product, marketing and business development experience.

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 Operations Research Center



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**DAVID MINDELL**  
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**AMADEO  
 ODONI**  
 T. Wilson Chair Professor  
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 Astronautics



**ASU  
 OZDAGLAR**  
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 Deputy Dean of Academics,  
 SCoC



**SANDY  
 PENTLAND**  
 Toshiba Professor of Media  
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**GEORGIA  
 PERAKIS**  
 William F. Pounds Professor  
 of Management, EMBA  
 Faculty Director, ORC Co-  
 Director



**DAN  
 ROOS**  
 Japan Steel Industry  
 Professor, Emeritus, Civil and  
 Environmental Engineering

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SHEFFI**

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**NIGEL  
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### **FÁBIO DUARTE**

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JR East Professor of Engineering

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Principal Research  
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### JING LI

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Operations Research

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Operations Research Center Co-  
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Director

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Japan Steel Industry Professor,  
Emeritus, Civil and Environmental  
Engineering

### NICK ROY

Professor of Aeronautics and  
Astronautics

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