

Plain language statement



Project: C-ITS National Harmonisation

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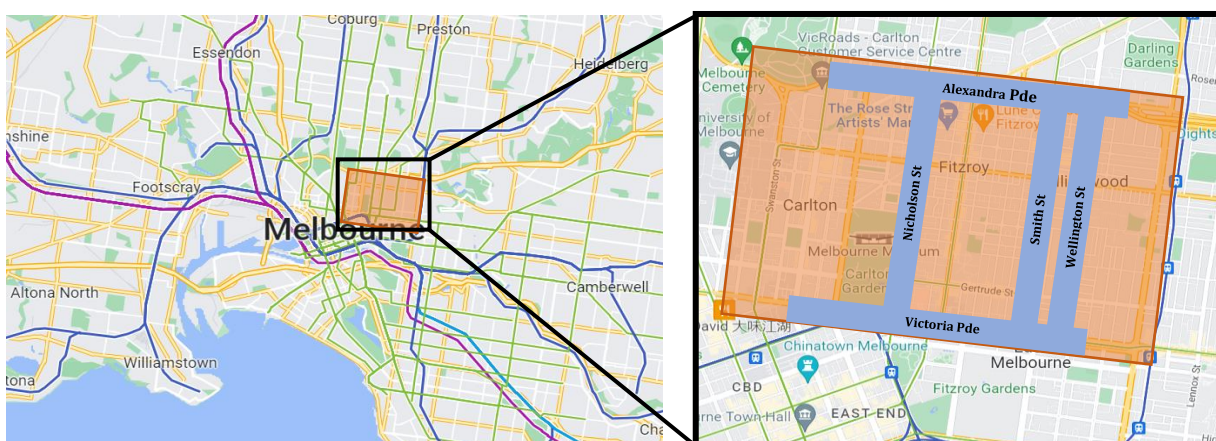
Introduction

We are inviting you to take part in a research project that looks at how new technologies in vehicles can make roads safer. Before you decide whether to join in, we want to explain what the research is about and what your part in it would be.

What is the research about?

Co-operative Intelligent Transport Systems (C-ITS) technology enables road users and infrastructure (such as traffic lights and freeway systems) to communicate with each other, sharing information about road conditions, disruptions, traffic flow, and safety incidents. C-ITS has been proven to have the potential to provide significant safety benefits by detecting and providing advanced warning to drivers to prevent incidents and improve efficiency of transport networks.

C-ITS needs alignment amongst governments and industry for harmonised deployment to realise these benefits in Australia. This project involves uplifting around 30 intersections across five key corridors within inner Melbourne with the advanced sensing and communication capability to continually transmit live information about traffic and safety for road users.



Deploying C-ITS at scale in a real-world busy urban environment will allow assessment of benefits, deployment considerations and options, and provide recommendations that could support Australian's road authorities' adoption of C-ITS in a nationally harmonised manner to benefit all Australians.

What will I be asked to do?

If you decide to take part, we will install a device in the vehicle you drive for work which will contain two main parts:

1. A small computer which will usually be installed out of sight underneath one of the seats or within the dashboard.
2. A small screen, similar in size to a small phone that will display messages to you about speed limits and providing a warning to you if you are approaching a dangerous situation.

This device will collect data from vehicles while they are driven. This data will include where you are driving to and from, speed, braking, and other details about your trip. To support our ability to analyse data and make sure our questions to you are relevant, when you turn the vehicle on, the device will prompt you to select your unique driver number. This unique driver ID will be set up and provided to you when the devices are installed in the vehicle.

For each device installed in the vehicle, there are three options as to how trips are, or are not, recorded:

1. Once you start the vehicle, you will be prompted to select which driver you are (up to 4 can be registered to each device), and this trip will be attributed to that you. Your actual name is not used, instead, a unique identifier will be attributed to you to ensure we are able to analyse driving behaviours of different kinds of users. This will be considered as consent per trip for the data to be collected for that trip.
2. If for any reason, you do not wish to be registered to the trip you are undertaking or you forget to select which driver you are or you are not one of the pre-registered drivers for that vehicle, then the trip will still be recorded, but there will not be any driver attributed to that trip, and it will not be possible to identify them. This is done by either not interacting with the device upon start up.
3. If you do not wish the trip to be recorded at all, you are able to unplug the HMI device and the trip will not be included in the research or selecting that you are a non-participant at start-up.

Additionally, you may also be asked to take part in surveys, so that they can provide feedback on how well the devices are helping them to stay safe on the roads. These surveys will be conducted at the start, during and at the end of the project. You will receive surveys after a specified number of drives or number of interactions with the device, which is based on your selecting your unique driver ID.

The experiment will last for approximately 2 years, over which time the device will stay in the vehicle.

What are the risks?

One potential risk of participating in this research is related to driver distraction. Some of the technologies we are studying involve warnings or alerts displayed in your vehicle. While these warnings are designed to enhance safety, they may also divert your attention from the road. It's important to be aware of this risk and to always prioritise safe driving practices and to ensure decisions made while driving are not solely based on the warnings displayed.

What are the benefits?

C-ITS, if implemented across Australia has the potential to have a meaningful reduction in serious and fatal accidents on road, saving 1000s of lives. However, without research and testing, which includes

academia, industry and government coming together, the chance to link understanding to implementation is low.

Taking part in the trial will not only mean you get to help pave the way towards a safer technology being deployed on Australian roads, but also you get to actively test and improve how this technology is deployed. Where deployed elsewhere in Australia and across the world, this technology has shown to potentially reduce the number of fatal/serious crashes by up to 20%.

Furthermore, companies involved in the trial will be invited to take part in media announcements that will be led by the University of Melbourne and the Department of Transport and Planning Victoria.

Partners that have funded the project include:

- University of Melbourne
- iMOVE Australia
- Department of Transport and Planning - Victoria
- Federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
- Main Roads Western Australia
- Transport for New South Wales
- Transport Accident Commission
- Transport and Main Roads Queensland
- Department of Infrastructure and Transport South Australia
- Intelligent Transport Systems Australia

How will my confidentiality be protected?

Data recorded as part of this experiment is only to be used for research purposes. There will be no liability to any driver or operator for driving behaviour that is collected as part of this research including speeding, crashes or any other breach of road laws. Furthermore, no performance measurement will be shared back to employers as part of this research.

To support this, data collected through the devices installed in vehicles will be stored in the a dedicated cloud platform - Amazon Web Services (AWS) for the purpose of the research. It is protected by an access key and a secret key as in AWS cloud. Even in the event of a data breach, all trips recorded will have anonymised attributes against drivers, rather than their names or other personal information.

There will be a link between your unique identifier and an email address so we can send you emails for surveys and to compensate you for completing these surveys. Only a small number of vetted and trained researchers have access to this information and will not link this email address to any other data captured as part of the project. Furthermore, this researcher is bound by an NDA and provided ethics and PIA training specific to the project so as not to disclose any information collected as part of the project.

What if I want to withdraw from the research?

Taking part in this research is completely up to you. You can decide to join in or not, and you can change your mind at any time. There won't be any consequences if you decide not to take part or if you want to stop participating later on.

As noted above, if you only wish not for a trip to be registered to a particular driver, you can ignore the prompt on the device and you will still get the warnings and experience – however the data won't be

attributable to your unique ID. If you wish for a trip not to be recorded at all, you can select ‘non-participant’ or unplug the HMI from its power source.

Current trip **will be recorded against your ID** if you consent **each trip** by selecting your ID

Current trip **will be recorded be anonymised** if you do not select an ID, but the C-ITS will still work and anonymised data will be collected.

Current trip **will not be recorded at all** if you select “non-participant” or unplug the device.

Where can I get further information?

If you have not understood any of this information, please contact any of the researchers listed above. This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project that you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Manager, Human Research Ethics, Office for Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010 (Tel: +61 3 8344 2073; Fax: +61 3 9347 6739; email: HumanEthicsComplaints@unimelb.edu.au). All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence, please provide the name of the research team, or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.

How do I agree to participate?

If you wish to participate, please read and sign the consent form provided by the researcher.