Participant Consent and Release Form - Drivers

Ethics ID: **29391**

Title of Research Project: Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems (C-ITS) Research Project

Principal Investigator: Professor Majid Sarvi

Introduction:
You are being invited to participate in a research project focused on analysing the effectiveness of Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems (C-ITS) in enhancing road safety and traffic management. Before deciding whether to participate, it is important for you to understand the nature of the research and what your involvement as a driver and participant in this research.

Purpose of the Research:
The purpose of this research is to evaluate the impact of C-ITS in a real-world environment with drivers such as yourself. C-ITS technologies aim to enable communication and cooperation between different transport services, including private vehicles, public infrastructure such as traffic lights and speed signs, public transport and back-end systems which support traffic operations. The intent of this C-ITS technology is to enable drivers to be aware of potential hazards before they or their vehicle can see them, so they can react accordingly.

Vehicles associated with the trial, including the fleet/loan vehicles you are driving will be fitted with a device which displays information to you, such as live speed limit and hazard warnings.

The hazard warning use cases that you may be notified about by the device include advanced red-light warnings, vulnerable road user protection while turning at intersections, road-work warnings, and in-vehicle signs. You will be able to find more information about each use case in the Participant Handbook (attached to this form). The notifications are triggered by infrastructure installed at 30+ intersections and level crossings in the Carlton/Fitzroy area of Melbourne. Therefore, if you are driving outside these suburbs, you should not expect to receive any notification.

Data will be collected from the vehicles participating in the trial and analysed to assess the effectiveness of the C-ITS hazard notification system. The data will be collected from vehicles during the trial period which spans from October 2024 to June 2026.

Participant Responsibilities:
If you choose to participate in this research, your responsibilities will include allowing data to be collected from the vehicle you are driving during the trial period. For the data collection to start, you will need to turn on the C-ITS device and select the Driver ID number provided to you. The data that will be collected include vehicle position, travel speed, route, and other relevant parameters from the vehicle and C-ITS device. Further information on the devices and data collected can be found in the Data Usage and Anonymity section.

You will be required to return the C-ITS device installed in the vehicle either at your discretion by withdrawing from the research or at the conclusion of the project. You may post the device, return it to the University campus or arrange for collection. The device should be returned in working condition.

Survey information:
At regular intervals throughout the trial, drivers of vehicles will be invited to conduct a short online survey on their experience with the C-ITS devices installed. Participation in the surveys is voluntary. However, you will be compensated for your time via gift cards after the completion of each survey.

Data Usage and Anonymity:
It is important to note that any data collected from your vehicle will be anonymised before analysis. Personal identifiers, such as vehicle identification numbers, will be encrypted to ensure that individual participants cannot be identified. The data will only be used for research purposes and will not be shared with any third parties for any commercial purposes.

Vehicle telemetry data will be collected from the on-board C-ITS device on each test vehicle to support the analysis of C-ITS on safety and efficiency outcomes. Data categories include:

- Vehicle Speed
- Vehicle braking
- Vehicle location
- Vehicle X/Y axis rotation
- Vehicle ID (encrypted)

A provided Driver ID number will act as an anonymous link between all your recorded driving data and survey responses. It will not be associated with your name or other personally identifiable information except your email.

The link between your email and your Driver ID is necessary for us to send you the surveys, compensate you for your time, and to problem solve any issues you may have during the project. To protect your privacy, this information will be managed by the participant manager, who will keep it stored securely and separate from other aspects of the project. This information will not be used by researchers and will be destroyed at the conclusion of the project.

NOTE: No driving data from any of your trips will be provided back to your organisation in order to protect your anonymity. Only the University of Melbourne will have access to this data and researchers who have access to this data will sign a non-disclosure agreement.

All results that will be published will be aggregated to protect participant anonymity.

Confidentiality:
Your privacy is of utmost importance to us. Any personally identifiable information gathered during the research will be handled with strict confidentiality. Only authorized personnel involved in the research project will have access to the data, and measures will be in place to prevent unauthorized access or disclosure.

These measures include non-disclosure agreements signed by university staff, password protected access to data storage areas and the separation of participant emails from any identifiable information through document management.

Disclaimer and Release:

When using the device installed in your vehicle, you may find the actual road conditions differ from the warnings or the information displayed. You must always exercise independent judgment visually before acting on it. The University of Melbourne is not responsible for any distractions caused by the device and you use the device at your own risk. As the driver you are responsible for obeying all road laws and maintaining control of your vehicle at all times.

The University of Melbourne has no liability to you or anyone else (including in negligence) for any type of damage or loss, however incurred, in connection with your use of the device, including (without limitation) personal injury or death or damage to property.

Voluntary Participation and Right to Withdraw:
Participation in this research is entirely voluntary. You are free to withdraw from the study at any time without providing a reason and without facing any negative consequences or penalties.

Contact Information:
If you have any questions or concerns about the research project or your participation in it, please do not hesitate to contact Majid Sarvi at majid.sarvi@unimelb.edu.au

Consent:

I have read and understood the information provided in this consent and release form, and I voluntarily agree to participate in the C-ITS research project under the terms described above.

Participant Signature: _____

Date: _____