

Marianne Saglam
Communications and Media Senior Director
msaglam@ite.org | 202.785.0060 ext. 123

November 21, 2019

ITE Maintains Strong Support for Preserving 5.9 GHz Safety Spectrum

The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) is extremely disappointed in the proposal advanced by Federal Communications (FCC) Chairman Pai and announced yesterday to give away spectrum that has been set aside for life-saving communications between vehicles and other users.

The proposal to reallocate the majority of the 5.9 GHz safety spectrum for unlicensed uses comes at a time when more than 36,000 people are dying on our nation's highways each year. Connected vehicle technologies have been identified by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration as having the potential to save tens of thousands of lives each year—but only if these technologies are given the certainty of a safety spectrum that is free from signal interference. States and cities across the country have begun to deploy these technologies. Reallocation of the majority of the dedicated safety spectrum will likely slow or even halt these deployment activities.

“ITE and its members are committed to saving lives and achieving the goals of Vision Zero. Reallocation of this spectrum is a short-sighted move that will significantly reduce the life-saving potential of connected and automated vehicles,” said Jeffrey F. Paniati, ITE Executive Director and CEO.

The ITE Board of Direction has embraced Vision Zero as a priority for ITE and an imperative for the transportation profession. As a founding member of the Road to Zero Coalition, ITE supports the acceleration of advanced technologies, including connected and automated vehicles (CAV), as a key strategy in achieving Vision Zero. In 2018, ITE issued a CAV position statement that includes support for fully protecting the currently designated 5.9 GHz safety spectrum for use by CAV applications and services.

About ITE

Founded in 1930, ITE is a community of transportation professionals including, transportation engineers, transportation planners, educators, policymakers, technologists, solution providers, and researchers with equal representation from the public and private sectors. Through meetings, seminars, publications, and a network of nearly 16,000 members working in more than 90 countries, ITE connects you to a world of ideas, people, and resources. For more information, visit www.ite.org.

###

Institute of Transportation Engineers

1627 Eye Street, NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006 USA
Tel 202-785-0060 | Fax 202-785-0609 | Web www.ite.org