



Summer Program on Transportation Statistics August 14-18, 2017

Lecture: *Statistical and Data Issues for Automatic Driving Safety Analysis and Research*

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Abstract:

The downward trend of motor vehicle traffic crashes has been a remarkable success story of saving lives and preventing injuries on nation's highway. The underpinning of this success is a data-driven approach to tackle many traffic issues under NHTSA's leadership and the safety community's continuous efforts. Despite these efforts, 35,092 people died on United States' roadways in 2015 and 94% of traffic crashes can be attributed to human choices or errors. Traditional traffic safety data are from a wide variety of sources and cover areas of crash, roadway, vehicle, driver, citation, and EMS. As both automobile technology and communication innovation advance rapidly, transportation in the future will be very different than it is today. These changes require the transportation community to embrace the transformation and plan ahead to maximize these advancements to improve safety and mobility. This presentation will discuss the role of traditional traffic data in improving highway safety and the data needs for the future development of automated vehicles, roadway infrastructure, and other regulatory tools to ensure technologies are safely introduced and achieve their full potential.