



Point of View

Intelligent Vehicle-Highway Systems

Introduction

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In the introduction to the Point of View feature in the September–October 1991 issue of *TR News* on urban rail transit systems, readers were asked to comment on the substance of the articles and if *TR News* is an appropriate forum for discussion of controversial transportation issues. We received more responses by far to those articles presenting four views on urban rail transit than to anything we have ever published (see *TR News*, March–April 1992, for sampling of the letters received). Not surprisingly, few agreed on substance, but there was consensus on the value of presenting side-by-side discussions by competent advocates of controversial issues. Readers did not even suggest a need for caution. So here goes another one—this time on the pros and cons of the newly initiated national efforts to develop and implement intelligent vehicle-highway systems (IVHS).

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 authorizes approximately \$700 million over the next six years for a national research initiative to develop and test IVHS technology. Although many transportation professionals are enthusiastic about the prospects of reaping large benefits from this enterprise (for example, see accompanying article about a TRB study committee's conclusions), others are concerned about the high costs, the uncertainty of the technology, and the institutional barriers to successful implementation of IVHS. In this Point of View feature, two individuals thoughtfully and forcefully present the pros and the cons in this debate.

Once again, we would be interested in hearing readers' views on the substance of the arguments. Suggestions for other themes that might profit from similar treatment are also welcome.