

Illinois professors Arnab Chakraborty and Lindsay Braun receive an IDOT grant to help communities plan for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles

A team of Illinois urban planning researchers is starting a cutting-edge research project to prepare communities for a future of greater Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAVs). The \$180,000 project is supported by the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois Center for Transportation. The researchers will focus on understanding how CAV technologies may impact human behavior and infrastructure decisions, and how that information can be incorporated in local plans. Scenario analysis, a tool for managing uncertainty, will be employed to understand a range of CAV futures and how different communities may react to these developments. The research team, which includes PhD student Ouafa Benkraouda, will consult with state and local practitioners, community residents, technology companies, and elected officials through a series of interviews, surveys, and scenario workshops. The final product – a set of policies and design guidelines – will offer a path for communities to reach favorable CAV outcomes. While the immediate focus of the project will be on mid-sized regions in Illinois, the team expects the lessons from this project to apply far beyond.

In the photograph (from left to right): Angeli Gamez (ICT), Shawn Wilcockson (IDOT), Kristi Anderson (ICT), Ouafa Benkraouda (DURP), Jerry Quandt (ILAVA), Lindsay Braun and Arnab Chakraborty (DURP). [Photo Courtesy: 1871]

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