Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) are essential to achieving the EU's vision of seamless transport for both passengers and freight. The availability of open and high quality transport data will provide substantial improvements in performance of transport networks, operations and services, whilst fostering their connectivity and facilitating collaboration.

In recent years ITS have been playing a crucial role to achieve the EU objectives for transport safety and sustainability. ITS services are now widely used across Europe and they drive transport efficiency at both local and international levels. When ITS are applied to road transport, also linking it with other modes, they increase safety and capacity through higher interoperability and better use of the existing infrastructure, with subsequent financial and environmental benefits.

Through the harmonisation and continuity of pan-European services across Member States, ITS contribute substantially to the creation of the single European Transport Area.

CEF Transport supports trans-European infrastructure and new technologies. CEF has already provided over €500 million of funding for ITS, triggering investments of more than €1.3 billion for the deployment of ITS and C-ITS services in Europe. The EU will continue to make ITS one of its priorities in the future, in line with its commitment to making the road sector safer, greener and more competitive through smart solutions.

Horizon 2020 supports a vision of seamless transport for passengers and freight. To date, Horizon 2020 has provided over €45 million to ITS research projects, in which all elements of the multimodal transport system are connected into one cooperative ecosystem. Other activities complementing the former are implemented under the Automated Road Transport domain amounting to €250 million over the 2015-2020 period.

Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) for Road

ITS projects receive European support from a number of different sources. Two of these are directly managed by the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA):
Horizon 2020, the EU's €80 billion research and innovation programme for 2014-2020, will invest €6.3 billion to address the societal challenge 'Smart, Green and Integrated Transport' (€3 billion managed by INEA through the 'Mobility for Growth' priority).

This challenge is designed to boost competitiveness of the European transport industry as well as achieve a safe, efficient, secure and green European transport system. In this context ITS represents the backbone of the 'Mobility for Growth' priority, as they foster innovation in transport to yield improved mobility solutions.

The C-Roads platform is a joint initiative of European countries and road operators which are in the phase of installing C-ITS for piloting and later operation.

PILOTS

Post installations are harmonised and ensure interoperability of Day 1 and Day 1.5 use cases recommended by the European Commission's C-ITS platform.

URBAN FOCUS

C-ITS plays a significant role in helping cities address the problems associated with growing urbanisation. CEF Actions study and pilot Day 1 and Day 1.5 services in real urban traffic conditions.

The two Actions implement road safety solutions and traffic management services in a coordinated way on the TEN-T Mediterranean Core Network (including Spain, Italy, France and Portugal). The continuous flow of data will enable stakeholders to better manage traffic, and will receive information on accidents, congestion, events, weather-related data and the real-time traffic flow, independent of national borders.

The CoExist project involves mobility stakeholders to become ready for the progressive increase of automated vehicles on European road networks. It will connect national road authorities and their preparedness for the transition towards a shared road network between automated vehicles and traditional ones.

These two Actions ensure that the European public emergency Services (PSAPs) are able to handle eCall emergency calls from vehicles across Europe and that vehicles can be retro-fitted with this system. The objective is to reduce the number of fatalities as well as the severity of injuries caused by road accidents.

The Connecting Europe Facility supports the implementation of ITS Corridors and the development of harmonised C-ITS services across the EU. It also contributes to the implementation of EU policies and regulations, for example the eCall service.

Interoperable and seamless ITS services imply a continuous cooperation among EU Member States and other stakeholders, technical harmonisation, and investments in ITS infrastructures that are stimulated and supported by CEF funding managed by INEA.