

**Dr. James Sayer**  
**Former Director**  
**University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI)**

I am honored to nominate Dr. James "Jim" Sayer for the 2025 ITS World Congress Lifetime Achievement Award. Having collaborated closely with Jim for the past decade, I have seen firsthand his unparalleled dedication to enhancing transportation safety over the past thirty years.

Dr. Sayer served as the Director of the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) from 2016 to 2025 and continues to contribute as a UMTRI Research Scientist. His work spans over thirty years and covers critical areas such as advanced vehicle safety systems, human interaction with automated vehicles, connected vehicle and infrastructure technology, naturalistic driving behavior, driver distraction, and pedestrian safety.

Internationally recognized, Dr. Sayer has led the conduct and evaluation of field operational tests for vehicle safety systems, connected vehicle technology, and the study of naturalistic driving behavior. His insight into advanced vehicle-based sensing technologies led to the conception, design, and development of the Mcity Test Facility, a world-renowned purpose-built test facility for connected and automated vehicles and infrastructure research.

Dr. Sayer has been at the helm of numerous large-scale field operational tests and deployments of advanced vehicle technologies. These include the Integrated Vehicle-Based Safety System Field Operation Test (IVBSS FOT), the Connected Vehicle Safety Pilot Model Deployment (SPMD), the Ann Arbor Connected Vehicle Test Environment (AACVTE), and the Ann Arbor Connected Environment.

Throughout his career, Dr. Sayer has managed over \$83 million in sponsored research funding since 2005 and served as co-principal investigator on several field operations tests, including the current RAISE Grant-funded Smart Intersections Project (SIP).

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Additionally, he has received numerous awards for his contributions to the field, including:

- 2015 White House Transportation Champion of Change, Award recognizing exemplary leadership in advancing transportation and championing innovation that will benefit our nation's transportation system
- Intelligent Transportation Society of America, 2014 President's Award, Connected Vehicle Safety Pilot Model Deployment Program
- Society of Automotive Engineers Excellence in Oral Presentation Award, SAE 2012 Government/Industry Meeting
- Intelligent Transportation Society of America, 2008 Best of ITS, Best Innovative Product or Service, Integrated Vehicle-Based Safety System Program

Beyond his research accomplishments, Dr. Sayer has profoundly impacted the transportation field through mentorship, guiding numerous students to successful careers. He demonstrated exceptional leadership during the global pandemic and strategically integrated UMTRI into Michigan Engineering, strengthening its role in advanced transportation and mobility research.

I wholeheartedly believe that Dr. Jim Sayer's remarkable contributions and leadership make him the most deserving recipient of the 2025 ITS World Congress Lifetime Achievement Award.

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