Palacký University
Olomouc

Editorial

ONDŘEJ PŘIBYL

The papers published in this special issue of Transactions on Transport Sciences were selected from submissions to the Smart Cities Symposium Prague 2025 (SCSP). This year marks the 11th edition of the symposium, which has grown into an important platform for exchanging views between people from academia, municipalities, and technology companies (https://akce.fd.cvut.cz/en/scsp2025). What I appreciate most about SCSP is that it's not just about presenting solutions—it's about sharing perspectives and having real discussions about what the term smart city should actually mean.

For me personally, the term smart city has changed over time. When I first encountered it, it seemed to mostly refer to technology—sensors, platforms, automation. But over the years, and through conversations at SCSP, I've come to understand it differently. Technology is just a tool. What really matters is how it is used—to improve people's lives, to support sustainability, to make cities more efficient, inclusive, and resilient.

Smart cities, in my view, are not about having the latest gadgets, but about connecting people, data, and systems in a meaningful way. They are about communication, heterogeneity, openness, and cooperation across sectors. And crucially, they must keep citizens at the center. This means designing systems that are not only innovative, but also accessible, transparent, and responsive to real needs.

That's why I'm really pleased that we've established this collaboration with Transactions on Transport Sciences. The journal's scope—which includes behavioral and social sciences, mobility, traffic safety, and sustainability—is a perfect match for the types of contributions SCSP brings together. Both the symposium and the journal share the belief that transport and mobility systems are not just technical infrastructures, but also social and institutional systems that need to be understood and shaped with that complexity in mind.

The papers in this issue reflect that thinking. They don't focus on technology for its own sake. Instead, they tackle real issues:

– How can we ensure trust in transport data, and design data quality rules that make sense in practice?
– What makes a public transport route not only optimal on paper, but actually usable and comfortable for people?
– How do shared mobility services interact with traditional transport systems, and how do we design those transfer points better?
– Can virtual reality help train workers more effectively?
– How do we evaluate and ensure safety in increasingly automated railway systems?

These are not abstract questions—they're practical, grounded, and tied to values like usability, safety, sustainability, and fairness. And even though the papers come from different disciplines, different countries, and look at different parts of the system, they all point to the same thing: a smart city is a complex, evolving environment where technology must serve people—not the other way around.

I hope this special issue gives readers not only insights into the specific topics discussed, but also a broader understanding of how to think about smart cities in a more systemic, realistic, and human-centered way. That's something I've learned over the years through SCSP, and I believe it's a message worth sharing.

prof. Ing. Ondřej Přibyl, Ph.D.
Dean of the Faculty of Transportation Sciences, CTU
Chairman of the SCSP Advisory Board
Mobil: +420 731 125 297
E-mail: pribylo@fd.cvut.cz