

Connecticut Transportation Institute grants will use AI to improve road safety

by Kevin Guinan
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
kcg21003@uconn.edu

Three grants totaling over \$17 million were issued to the Connecticut Transportation Institute for updates to crash reports and monitoring road safety with AI, according to the executive director.

The Connecticut Transportation Institute is a collaboration between the University of Connecticut’s College of Engineering and the Department of Transportation. Eric Jackson, the Connecticut Transportation Institute executive director, also founded a group within the CTI which manages a motor vehicle crash online repository.

Jackson established the Connecticut Transportation Safety Research Center (CTSRC) in 2012, which manages the repository called the Connecticut Roadway Safety Management System.

“Basically what [the AI] is looking for is instances where vehicles and people come in close proximity to each other”

ERIC JACKSON

The largest grant of \$10.4 million will help develop the safety analysis tools, Jackson said. It was funded by the Federal Highway Administration and the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

The principal investigator for



Students walking along and across Hillside Road. The CT Transportation Institute at the University of Connecticut recently received \$7million for its AI-supported research.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF UCONN ON FACEBOOK

the grant, Kai Wang, is also using AI technology to track road safety and has already tested around three different inter-

sections on UConn’s campus, Jackson said. He added that the AI cameras will look like little black boxes that track vehicle and pedestrian paths and are expected to be temporary.

“It’ll be an overhead view, so it’s not going to be people’s faces, there’s not privacy concerns,” Jackson said. “Basically, what [the AI is] looking for is instances where vehicles and people come in close proximity to each other.”

Jackson said CTI couldn’t use pre-existing intersection cameras because they’re part of the UConn Police Department’s protected feeds. He added that most students probably won’t notice a difference because of the cameras already installed on intersections on campus.

Connecticut towns are consistently asking the CTSRC for data on road safety statistics, Jackson said.

“I think I’ve had five towns contact me in the last two weeks to help them pull data for their town council meetings, specifically around automated speed enforcement,” Jackson said.

Another CTI grant of \$6.7 million was funded by the Na-

tional Highway Traffic Safety Administration and CT DOT to enhance the state’s crash reporting form for more detailed data on accidents involving new technology like e-bikes and autonomous vehicles.

“If a bike crash occurs, the officer may or may not write something in the narrative of the crash that they were on an e-bike... we’re kind of just hoping that it’s mentioned if it was an e-bike or not,” Jackson said. “We’re also potentially seeing a lot of e-bike crashes that result in fatalities, but since they did not involve a motor vehicle... we don’t have a way to capture those crashes.”

“UConn would conduct a series of analysis to determine locations where speed and red-light cameras might have the most impact on [vulnerable road user] safety.”

ERIC JACKSON

Safe Streets and Roads for All was the name of the third UConn-focused grant, which allocated \$1.5 million for a list of tasks. One of the tasks involved exploring the use of cameras with automated speed enforcement at UConn.

“UConn would conduct a series of analysis to determine locations where speed and red-light cameras might have the most significant impact on [vulnerable road user] safety,” Jackson said.

He added that UConn would look at the analysis and result of West Hartford’s speed camera program to determine if the locations would be justified for a camera.

Another task for the UConn specific grant involved adaptive lighting technologies, which Jackson said adjusts illumination levels based on the needs of road users to reduce emergency consumption. The task would also maintain a higher level of service and visibility for vulnerable road users like pedestrians, Jackson said.



Cars driving down a Connecticut highway. the Connecticut Transportation Institute will use grant money to implement AI monitoring for road safety.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @DIEGOBELL3015 ON PINTEREST

The Daily Campus

Printing since 1896, The Daily Campus is the oldest and largest independent student publication at the University of Connecticut. The Daily Campus circulates 1,500 newspapers daily and strives to serve the student body by delivering accurate, relevant and timely news and content, both in print and online at Daily Campus.com. Our staff is comprised entirely of students, with roughly 200 undergraduates gaining professional development while contributing to the daily production of the paper, with positions including writers, photographers, copy editors, page layout designers, graphic designers, advertisement representatives, receptionists, delivery drivers and digital producers. Thanks for reading.

Want to advertise in print or online?
businessmanager@dailycampus.com

Corrections and Clarifications:
Send Corrections to EIC@DailyCampus.com

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Copy Editors: Grace Ballou and Patryk Zielinski
News Designer: Nora Mariano
Life Designer: Taylor Levine
Sports Designer: Connor Lafferty
Opinion Designer: Colbi Loranger
Photo Producer: Sophia Vieira

Karla Perez, Editor-in-Chief
Connor Lafferty, Managing Editor
Hayden Cromer, Business Manager
Ky’Lynn Monts, Digital Editor
Colbi Loranger, Associate Managing Editor
Isabella Kulawik, Associate Managing Editor
Sarah Vial, Associate Digital Editor

Jenna Outcalt
News Editor
Pierce Colfer
Associate News Editor
Bridget Bronsdon
Sports Editor
Avery Becker
Associate Sports Editor
Connor Sharp
Photo Editor
Emma Meidinger
Associate Photo Editor
Samantha Brody
Life Editor
Maleena Muzio
Associate Life Editor

Tomas Hinckley
Opinion Editor
Patrick Minnerly
Associate Opinion Editor
Samantha Hass
Artist Editor
Lillian LaFemina
Associate Artist Editor
Noa Climor
Outreach/Social Media Coordinator
Kayden Lynch
Associate SMOC
Karla Guerrero
Circulation Manager
Valley Publishing Company
Derby, Conn.

For more information about getting involved as an editorial, business or digital employee:

Editorial · managingeditor@dailycampus.com
Business · businessmanager@dailycampus.com
Digital · digital@dailycampus.com

Prefer to read our content online?

Check out our newly redesigned website at
dailycampus.com and follow us on social media.

Instagram · The_DailyCampus
Facebook · The Daily Campus
Twitter · The_DailyCampus

Want to write, photograph or draw for The Daily Campus ?

The Daily Campus welcomes writers, photographers and artists of all backgrounds, interests, majors and levels of experience. To get involved, it’s as easy as attending section meetings on Sunday nights, all at the Daily Campus building, (1266 Storrs Road) or reaching out to an email below:

Opinion (Meetings at 5 p.m.)
opinion@dailycampus.com
News (Meetings at 5 p.m.)
news@dailycampus.com
Life (Meetings at 6 p.m.)
life@dailycampus.com
Sports (Meetings at 7 p.m.)
sports@dailycampus.com
Photo (Meetings at 9 p.m.)
photo@dailycampus.com
Artists (Meetings at 9 p.m.)
artists@dailycampus.com