International Journal of Basic and Applied Sciences, 14 (SI-1) (2025) 64-67

International Journal of Basic and Applied Sciences

Website: www.sciencepubco.com/index.php/IJBAS
https://doi.org/10.14419/jpjfms43
Research paper



Impact of Connected Vehicle Systems on Road Safety and Heavy Vehicle Fleet Management

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Received: May 2, 2025, Accepted: May 29, 2025, Published: July 7 2025

Abstract

Connected Vehicle Systems (CVS) are revolutionizing the transportation industry by integrating advanced digital technologies with vehicular communication to enhance both road safety and fleet management. Such systems facilitate immediate message dissemination from the vehicle to the infrastructure and vice versa and contain vital information on speed, position, and road conditions, respectively. In specific concerns like road safety, CVS assists in minimizing the occurrences of mistakes that lead to accidents they including collision avoidance, driver assistance, and traffic control. CVS also helps in lowering risks and informing early about possible risks; they also help in avoiding traffic jams and making global traffic flow better. Since CVS is used for heavy vehicle fleet management, it provides substantial advantages like real-time monitoring, tracking of the vehicle for predictive maintenance, and monitoring of the behavior of the drivers, which tends to make it efficient, cost-effective, and the right route. More so, these systems assist fleet operators to monitor the status of the vehicles and thus, schedule maintenance continuously and avoid violation of the law. There are still issues that make it a difficult subject, such as the issues revolving around infrastructure costs, data privacy, and Issues of interoperability between different systems, or from region to region. Nevertheless, the experience of CVS indicates that they can be an effective way to increase safety and efficiency on the roads and that the opportunities for further developments are still enormous, even with all the mentioned obstacles.

Keywords: *Connected Vehicle Systems (CVS); Road Safety; Fleet Management; Predictive Maintenance; Interoperability.*

1. Introduction

MODERN transport by road has been revolutionized through Connected Vehicle Systems (CVS) by providing communication links between vehicles, infrastructure, and all road users in real-time [1]. These systems make it possible for automobiles to exchange other relevant information like speed, position, traffic situations, and conditions in the physical and natural environments in the transport system [11]. With regards to road safety, CVS has a very important role in minimizing the number of accidents, especially the ones that are due to human intervention, by use of technologies such as collision avoidance systems, automated braking systems, and driver assistance [6]. By analyzing the situation and giving timely notifications, CVS can avoid collisions and reduce the instances of a jam. In fleet management, CVS encompasses formidable tools for vehicle utilization, cost reduction, and increased productivity [3] [8]. The GPS accurately displays the performance of vehicles, measures and monitors the behavior of the drivers, and acts as a predictor of the probable maintenance times, hence enhancing efficiency in the utilization of the fleet and delivery of services [12] [15]. In summary, CVS signals the potential for improving safety as well as productivity in the current means of transport [4] [10].

2. Understanding connected vehicle systems

The CVS is a system that integrates vehicle-to-vehicle, vehicle-to-infrastructure, and vehicle-to-everything communication that can be used to establish a working interaction between roads and automobiles [5]. These systems utilize applications within certain product classes such as Vehicle to Vehicle (V2V), Vehicle to Infrastructure (V2I), and Vehicle to Everything (V2X), where vehicles effectively share real-time information with other vehicles, infrastructure, and even the environment regarding factors including but not limited to speed, position, road conditions as well as the physical environment [13]. One of the most important applications of V2V communication is to reduce the rates of accidents by informing the drivers of other vehicles' movements nearby. The V2I technology that links cars to traffic signals, road signs, and other facilities improves the flow of traffic and reduces risks. V2X involves communication among vehicles, infrastructure, and users, including pedestrians, cyclists, and other users of road traffic. CVS uses a variety of sensors, cameras, GPS systems, and cloud-based analyzing platforms to gather and analyze this data and offer reports.

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Recent studies offer varying perspectives on the comparative benefits of Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) and Vehicle-to-Infrastructure (V2I) systems. According to Chen et al. [16], V2V communication demonstrates higher real-time responsiveness in mitigating vehicle collisions, particularly in dynamic traffic environments. In contrast, the work [17] highlights that V2I excels in managing systemic traffic flow and signal optimization, especially in urban settings. While V2V is critical for direct collision prevention, V2I serves as a broader enabler of smart mobility infrastructure. Thus, a hybrid integration of both systems is considered optimal for maximizing safety and efficiency across diverse driving environments.
All these integrated technologies allow for the sharing of information and help to create safer roads as well as efficient fleet management.

3. Impact on road safety

3.1. Collision avoidance

Collision avoidance is one of the significant aspects by which Connected Vehicle System (CVS) asserts their safety [20]. CVS, which emerges from Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) communication, allows vehicles actual-time detection of possible collision with other oncoming vehicles/ obstacles [7]. CVS can also inform drivers of the presence of a particular threat, by a visual or an auditory signal, to allow drivers to respond appropriately.According to a study by the USDOT, V2V communication can reduce intersection collisions by up to 40% and rear-end collisions by 50%. These statistics underscore the significant safety benefits of adopting V2V systems across fleets operating in high-density zones. In more advanced systems, CVS can make corrections and change the direction of the vehicle, or brake to prevent the accident without the driver's initiation. These capabilities decrease the probability of an accident and greatly decrease the potential of rear-end collisions, as well as limiting Human Factors.

3.2. Driver assistance

While using Connected Vehicle Systems (CVS), the Driver Assistance features that are built into the system are very important in avoiding accidents occasioned by distraction or even fatigue of the driver. Most CVS manufactured today contain ADAS, assisted functionalities like lane keeping assist, adaptive cruise control, and automatic emergency braking [14]. These systems continuously watch the environment around the vehicle and offer feedback to the drivers on events that may pose some dangers on the road. By increasing the driver's capacity to prevent probable risks, CVS lowers incidences of accidents, especially in areas of congestion or inclement weather.

3.3. Traffic flow optimization

Connected vehicle systems (CVS) supplement traffic flow optimization through the ability to allow for coordinated interaction between cars and traffic management systems. CVS provides information such as speeds of vehicles, traffic, and congestion so that the traffic control systems need to change the signal timings and routes to minimize congestion [9]. This relieves traffic congestion and thus eradicates chances of an accident due to abrupt changes of lanes, sudden stops, or slow starts, among others. Through enhancing traffic flow, CVS enhances general transport safety where cars move at the right speed, hence reducing stress to drivers and the likelihood of an accident.

3.4. Reduced human error

Suffice it to find here that human factors are accountable for about 90% of motor vehicle incidents, which is why it is a critical safety issue. Connected Vehicle Systems (CVS) help address this problem by offering time-critical information and applications of automation and predictive technologies to help the driver make a better decision [16]. CVS can give drivers early warning of potential threats, such as hard braking and or nearby vehicles, so that informed action can be taken. Also, the self-adjustability of speed and maintenance of lanes enables drivers to avoid fatigue and errors that may arise due to distracted driving. Removing human influence by introducing key functional operations and timely feedback, CVS minimizes risk factors and enhances road security on the whole.

4. Impact on heavy vehicle fleet management

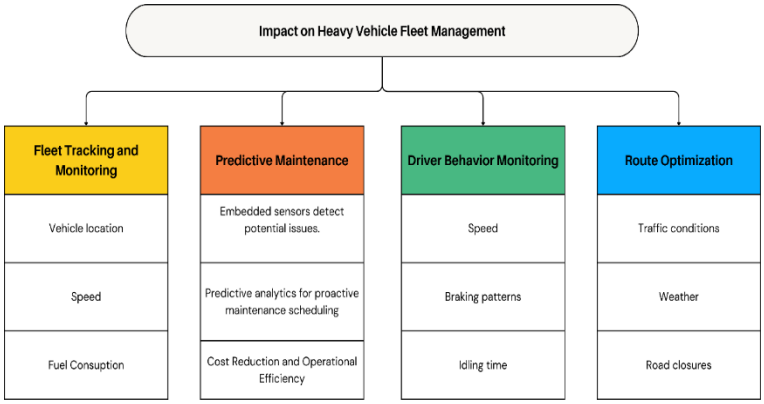


Fig. 1: Connected vehicle systems are embedded within fleet operations, highlighting the central role of communication layers and real-time analytics.

4.1. Fleet tracking and monitoring

CVS is are real-time fleet management system, allowing fleet managers to monitor collection and the condition of each vehicle in real-time to include location, speed, fuel usage, and End-of-Life (EOL) point. Through the monitoring of these parameters from a distance, fleet managers can have confidence that their vehicles are running effectively and at the right time. The acquisition of this capability helps the

fleet operators to quickly detect any problems in efficiency or effectiveness, any delay, or any deviation from the planned route. The integration of real-time tracking increases operational visibility and consequently, improves decision-making on optimizing fleet performance. Real-time tracking also provides client visibility concerning the status of deliveries, so it enhances the level of customer satisfaction [17].

4.2. Predictive maintenance

The protection of heavy vehicle fleets through preventive maintenance is among the key advantages of CVS. CVS are connected and embedded with sensors that are capable of tracking the general health of the automobile by identifying symptoms of a possible problem, including but not limited to issues with the engine, the tires, or brakes. This data allows the fleet manager to perform regular upkeep to head off issues before they lead to a more costly repair or more time spent out of service. This way, apart from increasing the reliability and safety of vehicles, the total maintenance costs are reduced and the possible lifespan of the vehicles is increased, which means the smoother and more efficient operation of the fleet.

4.3. Driver behavior monitoring

Intelligence through Connected Vehicle Systems (CVS) tracking results show that various driver behaviors get reflected in terms of speed, braking, accelerator, and idling time. It is very useful to use this data to pinpoint potential hot spots of problematic driving behavior, either unsafe or energy inefficient. This information is useful for fleet managers to offer corrective training, positively influence driver behavior, and reduce preventable times to accidents, wasted fuel, and vehicle depreciation. CVS, by encouraging better-driving behavior, supports increased safety and decreases operational expenses while simultaneously increasing the sustainability of the fleet and the efficiency of its operation. One notable implementation is by FedEx, which integrated CVS with predictive analytics in 2021 across 3,000 trucks [2]. Their internal report noted a 15% improvement in delivery efficiency and an 18% drop in minor accidents within the first year of adoption. Similarly, DHL uses CVS to optimize route planning through centralized AI platforms.

4.4. Route optimization

CVS brings efficient route optimization as one of the benefits of managing fleets. By gathering real-time information on traffic congestion, weather conditions, and road blockage, CVS empowers fleet managers to pick proper routes for their vehicles. This cuts response time, increases fuel efficiency, and reduces mishaps resulting from traffic congestion or inclement weather conditions. Moreover, the implementation of efficient routes contributes to an increase in customer satisfaction by increasing the speed of delivery and decreasing overall time. Fewer waste management issues mean that CVS helps save costs and run the fleet better, both factors that improve profitability and service delivery.

4.5. Compliance and reporting

Heavy vehicle fleets – CVS plays a big part in complying with safety standards, emissions regulations, and operational procedures for connected vehicle systems. Most CVS compiles with monitor tools that show real-time analysis of vehicle efficiency, maintenance records, and effects on the environment. It also helps manage the level of compliance of fleet organizations with the requirements of industry standards, thereby decreasing the paperwork load for managers. Further, CVS assists in avoiding driving within the restricted legal edges, hence avoiding fines or penalties. Robust compliance not only maintains fleets' legal compliance but also instills in the organization a culture of responsibility.

5. Challenges and limitations

Despite the promising advantages of CVS, its widespread adoption faces several challenges:

- Infrastructure Costs: One of the main challenges is the creation and sustained development of the supporting communication networks for V2I connections, for example, smart traffic signals and connected centers, as this may prove expensive and take some time.
- Privacy and Security: Great concerns are raised over data privacy and security since connected vehicles provide massive amounts of data. It becomes paramount that both the send and receive ends of the information can be done securely and that users' privacy is safeguarded if CVS is to deliver on its promises.
- Standardization Issues: CVS is not standardized internationally, and its use is limited since the infrastructure for the support of this technology is incompatible with various brands of automobiles. A coordinated approach is required for integration with other geographical sectors.
- Public Acceptance: Some of the drivers may refuse to adopt CVS out of concern over personal privacy, technology dependability, and over-dependence on technology.

One major barrier to widespread CVS adoption is the high infrastructure cost of V2I deployment. For instance, a 2022 FHWA report estimates urban deployment costs at approximately $20,000 per intersection, compared to $35,000 in rural areas due to limited connectivity and terrain complexity. To mitigate these costs, public-private partnerships (PPPs) are being explored, wherein government agencies provide base infrastructure while private logistics firms co-invest in the digital interface and maintenance. Such models have shown promise in pilot programs across the U.S. and Europe.

6. Future directions

The future of CVS is bright, especially given the advances in the ongoing development of autonomous vehicles. CVS is anticipated to progress from simple safety functions as transport systems are made progressively smarter by original technology. In the future, such vehicles will be making their decisions as soon as they process real-time data without much intervention from humans. This transition could potentially generate fewer accidents, improved traffic conditions, and overall improved performance of roadway-related operations.

In addition, the implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) in CVS will dramatically enhance the prediction side.

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning offer transformative potential in CVS. For example, deep learning models like LSTM and CNN have shown efficacy in predicting congestion patterns by analyzing vehicle trajectory data [14]. Moreover, Reinforcement Learning algorithms can be used to optimize routing for fuel efficiency in fleet operations. However, one critical research gap lies in the scalability of such technologies in low-resource or developing regions, where internet penetration and sensor coverage remain limited. Addressing these gaps requires adaptable, lightweight AI frameworks and collaborative international efforts for infrastructure deployment. AI and ML algorithms assist in foreseeing traffic conditions based on historical data and predicting when certain pieces of equipment will require maintenance, and how drivers are going to behave, what recommendations need to be made – overall, it is more accurate as a prediction. It will enhance the vehicle's safety and performance not only the fleet management of vehicles. The growth of these technologies will require CVS to take an even bigger role in the progress and development of road safety, fleet management, and the overall transportation industry.

7. Conclusion

The system known as Connected Vehicle Systems (CVS) holds the promise that they are going to revolutionize road safety and fleet management, to name only a few of the issues in transportation that these systems will propose solutions for. By making cars intelligent through connected Vehicle Systems, CVS enhances road safety through features like collision avoidance, driver assistance, and more efficient traffic flow. These systems can greatly decrease the overall number of accidents, including those that are attributable to driver error, and make driving conditions for all individuals more secure. In fleet management, CVS provides tracking, prognostics, and routing that enables better resource management, lower costs, and increased service capability. Nevertheless, the increased use of CVS has its problems. The rising costs relating to the development of infrastructure required, data security and privacy issues, and the inability to standardize across regions and manufacturers remain critical if CVS is to thrive. Moreover, CVS is progressing with perpetual innovation in the autonomous vehicle system that will improve the performance of CVS in the future and evolve the transportation systems towards safer and highly efficient systems. With time, CVS will remain instrumental in reforming road safety and managing the fleet to enable a coherent solution to the perennial problem of transport.

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