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TRB TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

Title: FLOATING CAR DATA
IN WINTER MAINTENANCE
– Making roads safer using
real-time data from new
sources

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FLOATING CAR DATA IN WINTER MAINTENANCE

Making roads safer using real-time data from vehicles.

- Winter maintenance operators are challenged from the moment the winter season begins. A huge responsibility lies with the winter maintenance operation in general and the actual winter maintenance staff in particular.
 - Road weather forecasting is a crucial part of winter road maintenance. But there are challenges. The cost for RWIS stations becomes high when it comes to large-scale deployment, and without such a strategy the geospatial coverage of necessary data is affected. NIRA Dynamics uses embedded software in normal passenger vehicles to measure road friction, ambient temperature, wetness, and estimate road surface temperature. This allows an increased coverage of measurement points and thus solving the scalability problem of RWIS stations.
 - The floating car data becomes what the stopwatch is for a runner, the weight scale for a weightlifter, the score keeping card for a golfer. If the performance is not measured, there is no way of knowing what changes in processes, machines, or any tools have a positive impact, nor is optimization possible as the result is unknown.

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