

Session: "Emerging Issues with Quiet vehicles – A matter of Soundscape"

Title: E-vehicle: A positive impact on Soundscape?

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Abstract:

The future will see more and more electric cars on the road as stronger exhaust emission regulations are put into effect. A byproduct of this shift is a broad reduction of noise: no combustion-, exhaust- or intake-noise in addition to reduced tire-road noise. On the other hand, concerns have been raised with respect to pedestrian safety and electric vehicles being too quiet. The significant impact on the soundscape manifested by electric vehicles will be described in this paper, as well as efforts to address safety concerns. The request to compensate the low noise level of electrical vehicles by acoustical warning signals should be discussed very carefully, as even low level warning signals could increase perceived annoyance. This scenario will be explained by several examples.

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