A construction engineer, having graduated from l'École de technologie supérieure de Montréal in 2002, Mr. Hugues Bessette began his career as a consultant in the Montreal area. Specialized in structures, he developed over the years expertise in electricity and systems while working on projects in the field of transportation, specifically from a technological point of view. It is in the context of traffic signal upgrade projects that he started his career working for the City of Montreal. From Engineer, to Team Leader, then to Supervisor, Mr. Bessette paved his way in the former Division of the Arterial Network Operations of the Directorate of Transport. He notably participated in the implementation of the first Urban Mobility Management Centre of the City of Montreal. It is in this context that Mr. Bessette adopts and promotes the first release of the ITS Architecture for Canada.

Currently, he heads the new Operations, Innovation and Travel Management Division of the Directorate of Mobility, and he leads his team with his true desire to push the boundaries through innovation, uniqueness and imagination. Mr. Bessette focuses not only on the strengths of his team, but also on the strengths of ecosystems to create new opportunities based on stakeholder collaboration and resource integration. The recent arrival of IoT technologies, coupled with the principles of open data and engineering automation, which is so dear to the transport sector, allows Mr. Bessette to propel his vision towards new horizons.

Mr. Bessette was recently named a member of the Transportation Association of Canada's Connected and Automated Vehicles Task Force (TAC / ATC). This example of personal involvement demonstrates the importance for unifying the needs and frameworks of the Cities and Provinces with the most innovative and adapted market solutions.

Mr. Bessette was especially involved in the candidature of the City of Montreal to host the ITS World Congress in 2017, as well as in its promotion and its implementation as a member of ITS Canada and a member of the Host City. It is in this context that Mr. Bessette pushed the boundaries of innovation by conducting demonstrations during the ITSWC2017. Some of ITS Canada member companies and the City of Montreal have demonstrated their ability to design innovative projects that focus on interoperability and openness of systems such as real-time collection and publication of traffic data (spacial and volume) as well as automated and connected vehicles.

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Intelligent Transportation Systems Society of Canada, Mr. Bessette strives to highlight the expertise of our ecosystem. The world of intelligent transportation systems is undergoing a transformation and it is important that all actors take their place in this clash of generations. Collaboration and sharing of ideas are key to taking the next step and being able to meet the great challenges ahead.