

# Smart Pothole Detection and Adaptive Vehicle Response System

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**Abstract:** Poor Road conditions caused by potholes and speed bumps are among the major factors responsible for vehicle damage, traffic congestion, passenger discomfort, and road accidents in modern transportation systems. Traditional methods for monitoring and inspecting roads depend mostly on human monitoring and crowd reporting, making them time consuming, laborious, and inefficient methods for timely road analysis. This paper describes a Smart Pothole Detection and Vehicle Control System, combining computer vision, image processing, embedded systems, and intelligent vehicles for road anomaly detection and monitoring. In the proposed model, a 1080p HD camera, as well as OpenCV image processing, have been used for continuous road surface analysis and detecting potholes or uneven roads. A Raspberry Pi Pico W microcontroller is used as the control center, supporting detection, monitoring, and adaptive vehicle response operations based on detected road conditions. The developed smart system provides GPS alerts, Telegram notifications, and real-time dashboards as additional options for more convenient monitoring. This study offers an effective solution to intelligent transportation systems as well as applications in smart road monitoring and autonomous vehicles in the future.

**Key Words:** Pothole Detection, Intelligent Transportation System, OpenCV, IoT, Computer Vision, Raspberry Pi Pico W, Adaptive Vehicle Response, Smart Transportation.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Road transportation systems form a vital component for economic development, urban transportation requirements, and sustainable urban planning. However, despite the significance, the problem of deterioration of roads due to formation of potholes, cracks on the road, and poor pavements is still common. Not only do these pose a discomfort to drivers, but also lead to vehicle wear, high cost of maintenance, traffic congestion, and even accidents. Pothole formations in underdeveloped nations can be attributed to overloading of vehicles, improper drainage system, weather variations, and poor road maintenance. Conventional road survey techniques mainly depend on visual surveillance and complaints from citizens, which are inadequate methods of obtaining current data about the state of the road surfaces.

Due to the fast evolution of intelligent transportation technology, computer vision and embedded systems have come to be regarded as critical components in the creation of smart road analysis solutions. A vision-based road analysis solution is capable of monitoring road surfaces in real-time and detecting any anomalies by applying advanced image processing techniques. In contrast to other methods based on sensors alone, a camera-based detection solution can offer improved visibility regarding road surfaces with reduced development costs. Further advancements in machine learning, deep learning, and IoT have improved road damages detection systems' automation efficiency.

Smart Pothole Detection and Adaptive Vehicle Response Solution uses an approach that enables real-time road analysis and detection using image-assisted techniques. It makes use of a high-definition camera that takes road surface images when placed inside a robotically operated vehicle. After taking road surface images, OpenCV-based image analysis tools will be used to detect the presence of potholes and speed bumps along road surfaces. Upon detection of road anomalies, adaptive responses will be made to improve vehicle performance and stability.

The objective of this work is to develop an intelligent pothole detection and adaptive vehicle response system capable of real-time monitoring, alert generation, and safe vehicle navigation for smart transportation environments.

## II. LITERATURE SURVEY

The recent advances in ITS (intelligent transportation systems) technology have led to a lot of research activities related to automatic pothole detection and road monitoring techniques. Many researchers have worked on different methodologies using techniques related to computer vision, machine learning, IoT communication, embedded systems, and sensors fusion. Traditionally, pothole identification and assessment were done by manual surveying or public reporting methods, which are inefficient for large-scale road monitoring. For this reason, there is much interest in designing automatic pothole detection systems.

Ma et al. conducted an extensive study regarding the methodologies used to detect potholes using computer vision techniques through two-dimensional and three-dimensional imagery. This study covered the use of cameras, stereovision, and depth cameras for pothole detection and estimation. In addition, the use of a combination of different sensors in the same system enhances the efficiency of such methodologies. Moreover, the study also showed how modern image processing techniques shifted from traditional image processing techniques to deep learning methodologies.

The most recent publications in the journal *Sensors* investigated the application of neural networks including CNN (Convolutional Neural Networks), ResNet, and YOLO in detecting potholes in different environmental conditions. The findings showed higher accuracy in detection and ability to account for changes in lighting conditions and weather impacts. Nevertheless, the research revealed certain practical difficulties concerning the issues of data diversity and processing capabilities.

In the article titled "Detection of Potholes in Digital Images Using Machine Learning Algorithms", Ankit et al. studied the issue of pothole detection with the help of different approaches including both traditional algorithms (Support Vector Machines and Random Forests) and new deep learning solutions. The study analyzed the effectiveness of each approach in terms of accuracy, computation requirements, and time consumption of algorithms. Consequently, deep learning algorithms were found more effective in classifying images containing potholes.

Moreover, Sonwane et al. developed a study of image processing and sensing in order to evaluate potholes in terms of their depth, volume, and repair costs. Thus, pothole detection was further integrated into infrastructure repair planning process.

Vishwas et al. addressed the integration of accelerometers, gyroscope, and camera sensors to enhance the efficiency of pothole detection. In such systems, data on vibrations created by potholes, which are captured by the sensors, is analyzed along with image processing, thereby decreasing false detection rates. Hybrid systems are ideal for monitoring vehicles and smartphones.

Prashanth et al. developed an IoT-based framework for identifying road anomalies with ultrasonic sensors, microcontrollers, and wireless communication devices. This framework would send instant alerts to both the drivers and road maintenance agencies.

Audu-War et al. explored pothole monitoring systems based on image surveillance with camera units which could be fixed or mobile. This study addressed problems like image noise, changes in light intensity and camera placement, proposing the use of adaptive thresholding as well as cloud computing in the process of pothole detection. Likewise, Somashekar et al. examined modern artificial intelligence technologies such as convolutional neural networks, YOLO algorithm, and transfer learning methods in relation to pothole detection.

Recent investigations by Bhatt et al. dealt with multi-sensor systems of pothole detection, including LiDARs, ultrasonic sensors, and vision technology. It was found out that sensor fusion improves the results of pothole detection and increases performance in the context of automated driving and ITSs.

Despite the presence of numerous solutions capable of reliably detecting potholes, there are some issues that still exist in the implementation of such systems. Some systems need very costly sensing devices to work properly, whereas others fail to provide alerts in real time or cannot monitor vehicles' reaction or do not have an intuitive interface for monitoring purposes. The suggested system solves all these issues by incorporating various functionalities into one platform.

### III. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The problem with deteriorating road surfaces has become one of the major issues in modern day transportation because of the increase in numbers of vehicles on roads, poor maintenance of infrastructure, adverse environmental changes, and increased loads of heavy traffic on them. Problems like pot holes and an irregular surface have great implications towards the safety, stability, driver convenience, and efficiency during transportation activities. Due to poor maintenance of roads in most regions, there is high wear and tear of vehicles, punctured tires, damage of suspensions, excess use of fuel, and ultimately, road accidents. The conventional approach used in conducting road checks is heavily reliant on manual observations and citizen reports, which means it is time-consuming and ineffective.

The current technology used for pothole detection suffers from several limitations in the sphere of accuracy, high cost, performance, and environmental adaptability. Some of the technologies use very expensive equipment like laser sensors, while others have difficulties with detecting false signals caused by shadows, road lines, light, or weather. Moreover, there is no technology at the moment that would help in identifying potholes and adjusting vehicle's actions based on the detected problem, as well as creating alerts in specific geographical locations.

### IV. OBJECTIVES

The major objective of the suggested Smart Pothole Detection & Vehicle Response System is to design an intelligent and economical solution for real-time anomaly detection in roads and improving vehicle safety. The system will constantly analyze the road surface by means of computer vision and detect any potholes, bumps, and other abnormalities. Combining computer vision algorithms with embedded systems' controls will allow implementing adaptive behaviours of vehicles, which will include speed adjustments and directional corrections in order to maintain stable driving under poor road surface conditions.

Another important objective of the proposed system is its capability to provide real-time monitoring and wireless communication facilities. This system should instantly notify drivers regarding potholes on the road and include details such

as images, confidence scores, and geographical coordinates. The second objective concerns providing scalable interface for monitoring and management via web-based dashboard.

In addition, the design of the proposed system places emphasis on implementing a practical solution that makes use of cost-effective embedded hardware along with lightweight computer vision algorithms that can be implemented in the real world. This combination of computer vision, GPS, wireless communication, Telegram messaging, and adaptive control systems will help to develop an integrated intelligent transport system.

### V. PROPOSED SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

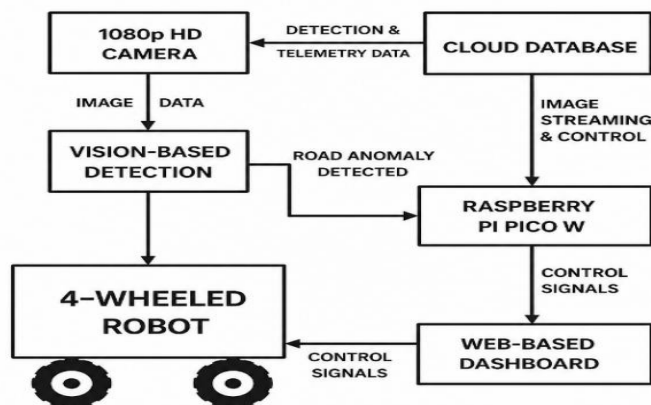


Fig. 1 Overall System Architecture of Smart Pothole Detection and Adaptive Vehicle Response System

The proposed system architecture of Smart Pothole Detection and Adaptive Vehicle Response System incorporates computer vision, embedded systems, wireless communication, cloud-assisted monitoring, and adaptive vehicle control technologies to develop a robust system that will monitor the condition of the road, detect potholes and other road anomalies, send alerts, and provide adaptive response to ensure safe driving. The overall architecture includes various components such as image acquisition, vision-based detection, embedded control processing, remote monitoring, and vehicle response components.

The image acquisition component involves the use of a 1080p High-Definition camera that captures road surface images while moving around the robotic vehicle. The visual information obtained by the camera is sent to the vision-based detection component for further processing.

This visual-based detection module analyses the road anomalies in real-time using image processing and object detection techniques based on OpenCV algorithms. The frames captured are analyzed to detect potholes and road anomalies by evaluating texture variations, contour formations, and discontinuity in the surface of the road.

The Raspberry Pi Pico W acts as the main controller for processing detection outputs and generating adaptive vehicle control signals based on road conditions.

Real-time information sharing between the embedded processing module and monitoring interface is enabled through the use of communication and remote monitoring module. Information related to detection, including detection image, timestamp, confidence value, and GPS location are communicated wirelessly in real-time through the system to generate alerts and monitor the process.

The web dashboard module serves as an observation portal where monitoring and detection activities can be monitored in real-time. The dashboard presents live camera footage, anomaly alert notifications, detection history data, GPS location, among other activities in the system.

The robotic vehicle platform constitutes the last layer of execution within the architectural design. The four wheeler robotic device receives control signals from the embedded controller to conduct adaptive vehicle response actions based on road conditions encountered.

### VI. METHODOLOGY

The development process of the proposed Smart Pothole Detection and Adaptive Vehicle Response System involves requirement analysis, hardware implementation, image processing implementation, communication protocol implementation, and performance evaluation. The entire methodology aims at developing a low-cost embedded system that reliably detects potholes in real time and produces adaptive responses for navigating the vehicle.

Requirement analysis entailed a comprehensive review of literature on available pothole detection techniques, intelligent transportation systems, and road anomaly detection and monitoring through computer vision algorithms. The papers were analyzed to come up with viable implementation approaches of designing and deploying the required system.

The hardware implementation stage entailed implementing an onboard camera, Raspberry Pi Pico W board microcontroller, motor drivers, wireless communication module, GPS sensor, and four-wheeled robotic vehicle platform. The onboard camera was fixed on the chassis of the robotic vehicle for capturing video streams from the road surfaces. The onboard controller was responsible for processing detection results and producing adaptive responses for driving the vehicle.

In the process of software implementation, the areas of focus included image pre-processing, feature extraction, and detection of potholes by employing various methods through the application of OpenCV and computer vision algorithms. In this regard, images were processed through resizing, filtering, and enhancement to remove possible noise from detected images under different environmental conditions.

Once detection is done, communication was programmed to send out results such as GPS coordinates, time stamp, confidence value, and images for monitoring purposes.

This research work involves testing and validation of the system designed. Different road conditions, such as potholes, speed bumps, and rough pavements will be used for experimentation of the proposed system.

**VII.HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS**

The implementation of the suggested Smart Pothole Detection and Adaptive Vehicle Response System is carried out by combining embedded hardware parts, computer vision tools, communication technology, and monitoring software. Embedded hardware is selected to ensure continuous road image acquisition, embedded processing, wireless communication capabilities, GPS-based location tracking and robotic vehicle control. Software tools are used to provide image pre-processing and pothole detection, dashboard visualization and alert generation.

Image acquisition is carried out via a 1080p high-definition camera that provides the ability to continuously capture road images while the car is moving. The Raspberry Pi Pico W microcontroller serves as the core embedded processing and communication unit responsible for handling all control operations and providing an adaptive vehicle response mechanism. Robotic vehicle consists of motor driver units, DC motors, and power supply with wireless communication capabilities.

Software part consists of computer vision algorithms based on OpenCV framework for image pre-processing and pothole detection tasks. Image analysis, communication logic and monitoring processes are implemented with the help of the Python programming language. Additionally, a web-based monitoring dashboard is created and a Telegram-based alert service is deployed. Integration with the GPS module allows location sharing when pothole anomalies occur.

Component	Specification
Embedded Controller	Raspberry Pi Pico W
Camera Module	1080p HD Camera
Vehicle Platform	4-Wheeled Robotic Chassis
Motor Driver	L298N Motor Driver Module
Communication	Wi-Fi Wireless Communication
Programming Language	Python
Computer Vision Library	OpenCV
Alert System	Telegram Bot Integration
Monitoring Interface	Web-Based Dashboard
Location Tracking	GPS Module
Operating Environment	Windows / Linux
Power Supply	Rechargeable Battery System

Table 1: Hardware and Software Requirements

**VIII.EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS**

The smart pothole detection and vehicle adaptive response system was implemented experimentally to test its reliability in detection, monitoring, communication, and response efficiency based on varying road surface conditions. The designed system proved its effectiveness in performing real-time pothole detection, alert generation via GPS, monitoring through the dashboard display, and adaptive response control in the vehicle.

An experiment was performed by designing a robotic car system with an integrated 1080p HD camera, a Raspberry Pi Pico W processor, wireless communication, and OpenCV image processing techniques. The captured images of the road surface were processed in real time to detect potholes, speed bumps, and other abnormalities on the road surface. Confidence outputs were generated by the system alongside alert notification messages with the respective GPS information.

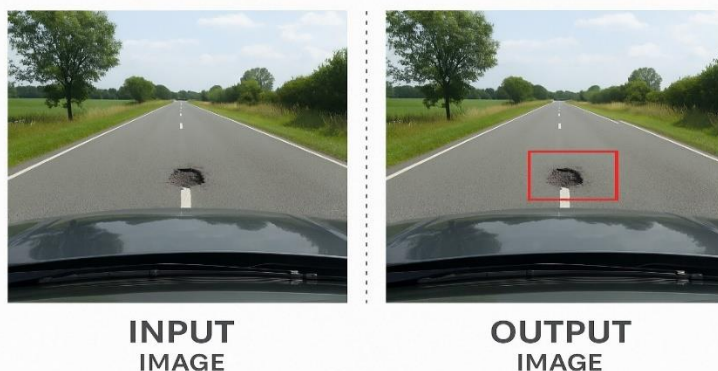


Fig. 2 Input and Output Images of Real-Time Pothole Detection

The input and output images confirm the efficacy of the computer vision process in detecting road potholes from the captured images. It was noted that the system was effective in pothole detection, with outputs of bounding box detection for anomaly visualization.

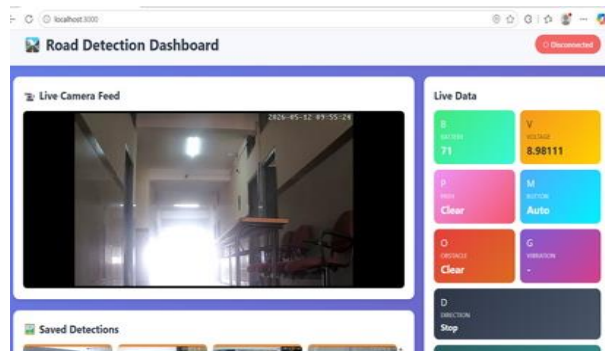


Fig. 3 Web Based Dashboard Showing Real-Time Monitoring

The web-based dashboard was used as a monitoring tool for monitoring live video feeds, road anomalies detection, system activity and controls in real time. The web-based dashboard featured captured images of potholes, history of detection, confidence values and monitoring parameters during the operations.

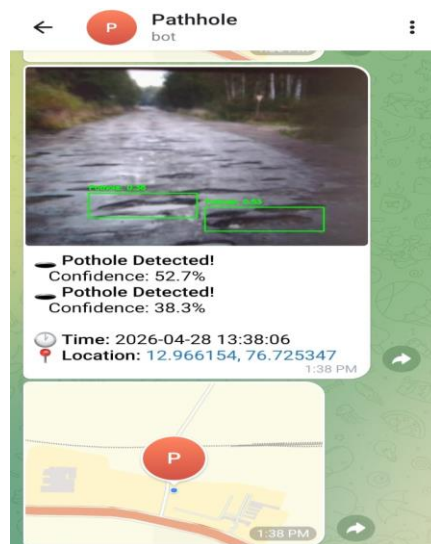


Fig. 4 Telegram Alert Notification with GPS Coordinates

The communication module effectively generated alert notifications using Telegram whenever there were any potholes or road irregularities detected. Notifications featured the detected pothole image, confidence scores, detection time and GPS coordinates for location monitoring purposes. Experimentations proved that the notification system provides reliable communication for real-time monitoring applications.

The proposed intelligent transportation monitoring system has been experimented in a number of road conditions, including potholes, speed bumps, rough roads, and uneven pavements. Intelligent vehicle control system reacted on detection of anomalies in roads by generating adaptive signals for controlling the vehicle. Therefore, experiments confirmed that integrating computer vision, wireless communication, GPS monitoring and adaptive vehicle control techniques made the framework feasible.

The performance analysis reveals that the system has demonstrated its stability and real-time capability with regard to detection responses under various environments. The lightweight nature and low-cost embedded system design have made the proposed system appropriate for use in smart transportation systems and road monitoring systems.

### IX. PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

The performance of the proposed Smart Pothole Detection and Adaptive Vehicle Response System was analyzed based on its ability to detect potholes, monitor efficiently, ensure reliable communications, and be practically usable in varied road conditions. Various experimental tests were done with varying road surface scenarios such as potholes, pavement damage, and irregular roads to assess the performance of the computer vision framework created.

The created system performed well by ensuring the effective real-time detection of potholes through OpenCV-based image processing and intelligent monitoring techniques. In experimentation, the developed pothole detection algorithm was able to provide accurate pothole detection results to the tune of 87%. Intelligent monitoring and classification with confidence and bounding box were successful.



Fig. 5 Real-Time Performance Monitoring Dashboard

The Fig. 5 above is the dashboard that can be used to monitor potholes and evaluate road conditions. This dashboard provides real-time statistics on the performance in detecting potholes, pothole severity, alerts, work orders, and pothole monitoring at state level. From the above dashboard, it is evident that the proposed solution can be utilized for intelligent transport monitoring and road infrastructure management.

The designed communication module was successfully able to provide the necessary alert and incident reporting information when any pothole or road anomaly was detected. These data, which included GPS coordinates, timestamps, captured image, and AI confidence values, were sent to the monitoring module where verification and analysis would take place.

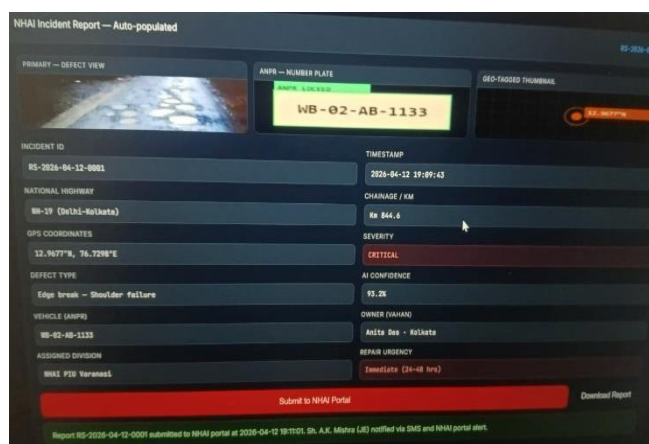


Fig. 6 Incident Reporting Interface and AI Confidence Visualization

As depicted in Fig. 6, an organized report of the detected anomaly will be presented which includes information such as the anomaly itself, geo-coordinates, AI confidence values, and vehicle ID number along with its priority level for repair. The user may confirm the report prior to sending it to the monitoring authority.

The vehicle adaptive response system also exhibited robust operational performance while detecting potholes. This was due to the fact that the vehicle control responses were derived from the road conditions through the control system that facilitated navigation stability and minimization of the effect of road irregularities.

Performance testing proved that the developed intelligent transportation system is both efficient, scalable, and cost-effective in providing pothole detection and intelligent transportation assistance services.

### X.ADVANTAGES

Several practical advantages can be observed from the proposed model for intelligent transportation and smart road monitoring systems. The use of computer vision technique makes it possible to detect potholes on the road in real time, reducing the need for manual road inspections. Automated detection and adaptive response mechanism help to increase vehicular safety, while reducing the effects of any road surface imperfections in the process of navigation.

Instant alert generation can be made possible by the proposed system due to the use of wireless communication techniques and Telegram alerts. As a result, the users will have access to real-time updates about potholes, road anomalies, and GPS coordinates. In addition, the use of a web-based dashboard would ensure that monitoring becomes more accessible as far as the supervision of detection processes goes.

One major advantage of the proposed system is the use of low-cost embedded devices in the design process. This makes it different from LiDAR-based techniques, which tend to be expensive.

The developed system proves itself feasible for implementation in case of application in road monitoring, intelligent vehicle assistance, autonomous transportation studies, as well as smart infrastructure management tasks. Implementation of pothole detection and adaptive vehicle control technologies with usage of GPS makes a good foundation for development of intelligent transportation solutions in the future.

### **XI.APPLICATIONS**

The proposed Smart Pothole Detection and Adaptive Vehicle Response System can find its applications in a wide range of intelligent transportation and smart road monitoring settings. In particular, the suggested solution will be efficient in conducting real-time monitoring of roads in urban settings, highways, industrial locations, and smart cities infrastructure in cases when there is an urgent need to maintain the condition of roads under observation.

The proposed technology can help local municipalities and road management organizations to detect areas where potholes often appear and monitor road condition changes. Moreover, with the use of GPS technology for tracking and alerting users about road anomalies, it will be possible to increase effectiveness of road anomaly detection and maintenance planning. The proposed system can be used for automatic road inspections, reducing dependency on manual procedures of the process.

One of the potential applications of the proposed system lies within the sphere of intelligent transportation and automated systems. Since it provides adaptive responses in cases when potholes are detected, it can help to ensure higher driving stability and generate necessary signals (adjustment of driving speed, turning) in case of encountering road anomalies.

The architecture proposed in the above discussion can also be incorporated with smart transportation systems that enable central monitoring of road conditions and traffic facilities. The use of real-time dashboard monitoring, wireless communication capability, and alerting systems makes the system easily accessible and facilitates remote monitoring of road anomaly incidents.

### **XII.FUTURE SCOPE**

The future scope of the proposed Smart Pothole Detection and Adaptive Vehicle Response System largely revolves around the areas of enhanced detection precision, intelligent monitoring capability, and autonomous vehicle assistance capabilities via the use of innovative technologies and better sensing mechanisms.

Future developments may involve incorporating advanced deep learning algorithms such as YOLOv8, Faster R-CNN, and transformers in object detection architecture to achieve high-level accuracy in pothole classification in varied environment conditions. The use of large datasets and transfer learning techniques will add more robustness and adaptability to the system.

Further scope for the development of the proposed system includes integrating more advanced sensing capabilities through the inclusion of various kinds of sensors like LiDAR, ultrasonic sensors, accelerometers, and gyroscope for achieving multi-sensor-fusion-based road anomalies.

Further development of the system will allow for integration with autonomous navigation guidance, state-of-the-art suspension management systems, and smart route planning to bypass areas of damage on the roads. The use of mobile applications, warning systems, and vehicle-to-vehicle communication systems will provide additional safety and efficiency in transportation services.

In addition, there are various options for using the proposed system design in the sphere of autonomous vehicles, intelligent transportation infrastructure, robots, as well as advanced road monitoring solutions. Future development of edge AI processors and lightweight neural networks will facilitate real-time operation of the model.

### **XIII.CONCLUSION**

The design of the Smart Pothole Detection and Adaptive Vehicle Response System is an intelligent, cost-effective approach to real-time anomaly detection and adaptive vehicle operation through computer vision and embedded systems technologies. This proposed system successfully incorporates image acquisition, pothole detection based on OpenCV, wireless communication, GPS-based alert generation, dashboard monitoring, and vehicle adaptation into a unified intelligent transport system.

The use of computer vision technology for road analysis allows accurate detection of anomalies including potholes, speed bumps, and road irregularities in various test conditions. The inclusion of Raspberry Pi Pico W device, real-time data transmission, and embedded control algorithms increased the feasibility of implementing the proposed system for intelligent transport and road analysis purposes.

From the experimental results, it was shown that the designed architecture can effectively monitor road conditions and provide real-time alerts and adaptive vehicle operation. The Telegram notifications and online dashboard made monitoring more accessible through constant monitoring of pothole detection events.

In comparison with conventional techniques used to monitor roads, this innovative system decreases reliance on human monitoring and offers better scalability for intelligent transportation infrastructure. The efficient architecture of this system combined with its relatively low cost makes it applicable for use in smart road monitoring systems, autonomous robotic vehicles, and smart cities in the future.

On the whole, the suggested system, Smart Pothole Detection and Adaptive Vehicle Response, can be considered an innovative application of various technologies such as computer vision, embedded computing, wireless communication,

and adaptive control. This system can become a base for conducting research in the areas of autonomous mobility and smart infrastructure monitoring systems in the future.

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