Who We Are
The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Research Center manages a vibrant and diverse transportation research program. While the Research Center was established in 1989, FDOT has been involved in transportation research for a century. Currently, the Research Center works with Florida’s universities, research institutions, private contractors, and other agencies to perform research in all areas of transportation.

Florida is a major tourist destination and the site of 15 deepwater seaports. An effective intermodal transportation system is critical to the state’s economy. The Research Center manages contract research addressing everything from improving the lifespan of pavements and bridge structures to keeping the state competitive in facilitating national and international freight movement.

How We Are Funded
Research funding is primarily a combination of state funding and federal State Planning and Research (SPR SubPart B) funding.

What We Do
The mission of the Research Center is to improve and protect Florida’s transportation system through the ethical scientific conduct of research that increases global knowledge of products, processes, and practices; to transfer information; and to encourage the implementation of research results. This mission is achieved through a contract research program that emphasizes applied research, implementation, performance monitoring, and technology transfer.
At any given time, FDOT typically has over 125 active projects, in addition to the pooled fund studies in which it participates. The Research Center works closely with the functional areas within FDOT, peer agencies, and other stakeholders to conduct and implement research. Research is typically conducted in the following areas:

- Construction
- Environmental Management
- Geotechnical
- Maintenance
- Materials
- Planning
- Public Transportation
- Roadway Design
- Safety
- Structures
- Traffic Operations/ITS

The Research Center also oversees the Department’s internship program. The Department offers paid internship positions to college undergraduate and graduate students in locations around the state. These positions range across the Department, from engineering to finance to information technology, and provide students a valuable look into the world of transportation.

**Staff**

The Research Center is comprised of a program manager and administrative, contracting, performance management, technology transfer, and internship coordinators. The research program is decentralized and functional areas requesting research provide technical project managers for the projects. These 50+ employees from throughout FDOT complement the Research Center and provide technical oversight and guidance.

**Facilities**

The Research Center is located on the third floor of the Haydon Burns Building in Tallahassee. The Structures Research Center, the Traffic Engineering Research Laboratory, both located in Tallahassee, and the State Materials Office, located in Gainesville, are key functional partners. These facilities are often used to carry out work on many FDOT research projects.

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**FDOT Research Center**

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