Part of the Planning Division, the Nevada Department of Transportation’s Research Section is charged with three major programs: Research, Product Evaluation, and the Library. Research is operated by five fulltime staff members, with an annual budget of approximately $2.3 million. Additionally, we administer the Local Technical Assistance Program, which is operated by a community college. The Research Section is also the conduit for participation in the University Transportation Center at the University of Nevada, Reno.

RESEARCH
The Research program is primarily managed via the Research, Development, and Technology Transfer process outlined in our Research Manual. The apportionment for Part II of State Planning and Research funds allocated by the Federal Highway Administration is typically about $1.7 million annually. Two fulltime staff positions, the Research Coordinator and the Research Analyst, see to this work.

PRODUCT EVALUATION
All products used on transportation contracts, and most used by other state agencies, are identified on the Qualified Products List. This list is maintained by our fulltime Product Evaluation Coordinator, who facilitates the review of product applications and coordinates field tests and reviews. This program’s annual budget is about $200,000 and is included in the Research, Development, and Technology Transfer budget. Included in the program budget are subscriptions to national standards, such as ASTM International and AASHTO.

LIBRARY
Staffed by a fulltime Research Librarian, the Research Library serves the unique information needs of NDOT employees, as well as being open to the public. An online catalog provides access to the 15,000-item collection which includes transportation-specific journals, books, and national and state research reports. The Library also provides desktop access for NDOT staff to research databases including the American Society of Civil Engineers journals and ASTM International Standards. The Librarian can assist with research questions and in obtaining materials through the interlibrary loan service.