



# Ohio Department of Transportation

## Research Program

### Who We Are

The Ohio DOT Research Program has been active since 1946. Our vision is to provide innovative solutions and technical resources to Ohio's transportation professionals through a competitive, contract-based research program.

### How We Are Funded

Ohio DOT research is funded by Part II of the State Planning and Research Program (SPR), along with required state matching funds.

### Researchers

Universities and private sector researchers are eligible to propose for ODOT research projects. Non-Ohio agency submissions must now include an Ohio-based subcontractor or partner. We currently have contracts with 22 different organizations within our program. All RFP's are posted on our web site as well as sent to our Research email list (sign up on our [website](#)).



### What We Do

Research uses four core programs to meet Ohio's transportation research needs:

#### 1. Strategic Research:

The majority of our program is strategic research projects. These are prioritized from ODOT program office submissions and then managed through our RFP cycle. There are a variety of subject areas we research through this method.



#### 2. Student Study:

Universities may propose small studies that will be completed by students under professorial supervision. The projects are 12 months long and the funding maximum is \$40,000.

#### 3. Ohio's Research Initiative for Locals (ORIL):

ORIL is Ohio's new research program for Local Public Agencies (LPAs). The purpose of ORIL is to provide research support for local agencies to address problems specific to the local roadway system.

The program is administered by a 15-person board composed of County Engineers, City Engineers, a Township Representative, Academics and ODOT Technical Experts. The board is supported by non-voting members from the Ohio LTAP Center, ODOT's Research Program and the FHWA Ohio Division Office.

#### 4. In-House:

ODOT program offices and Districts have the option to conduct research on their own behalf when a contracted researcher would not be necessary. Work plans for these projects are reviewed quarterly.



## ☛ Strategic Research Focus Areas

### 1. **Transportation Asset Management:**

ODOT's largest asset is our transportation infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, intermodal facilities, railways and ports. Through usage and the passage of time, the system degrades and can become inadequate for both current and projected travel demands. Maintenance of the infrastructure presents many challenges as well as opportunities for improvements. Developing methods to better utilize resources and integrate advances in science, technology, and construction techniques will assist ODOT in efforts to both modernize and support our system.

### 2. **Transportation Safety:**

Ensuring the safety of those utilizing and maintaining our transportation system is a priority for ODOT. The traveling public expects the system to meet their individual needs in a manner that is safe, convenient, economic, and efficient with minimal disruption to their daily routines. In addition, protection for highway crews working on-location is a prominent concern. Identifying, developing and corrective strategies is key to advancing a safe and reliable transportation system.

### 3. **Organizational Transformation:**

ODOT is faced with challenging situations brought about through influences such as economics, demographics, management trends, downsizing, and shifts in federal funding, increased maintenance needs, and so forth. Research will guide ODOT in creating opportunities to foster innovation, leverage resources, and streamline and enhance decision making and project delivery.

## ☛ Staff

Ohio's research program is led by a team of professionals, in partnership with technical experts throughout the DOT as well as the research community.

## ☛ Facilities

With our engagement and contracting with the research community, we have access to world class facilities for research projects and engineering studies.

ODOT owns and manages the Ohio Strategic Highway Research Program Specific Pavement Studies Test Road (US 23) – a valuable asset. Research in both flexible and rigid pavements has been conducted since 1996.

## ☛ Contact Info

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