

Texas Department of Transportation

Research Technology & Implementation Division

TxDOT's Research and Technology Implementation Division (RTI) manages the department's technical research program which was established by the Texas Transportation Commission on September 29, 1948. That directive provided for a research program between the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the Texas Highway Department. TxDOT's Cooperative Research Program has grown over the years to include numerous other Texas public universities and now provides for the department to contract with research organizations through a competitive process to improve Texas transportation. Today TxDOT has a strong research program with 25 organizations actively participating.

Staff

The RTI Division consists of fourteen professionals. The Director Leads a staff that includes a Section Director, Executive Assistant, five Project Managers, one Portfolio Manager, one Lead, two Contract Specialists, and two Resource Specialists.

How We are Funded

The Research Program is supported by Part II of the State Planning and Research Program (SPR). TxDOT allows for no less than 25% of the SPR funds to be used for research.



Benefits

Products from the Research Program include devices, analytical tools, new materials, new or improved specifications and testing methods, as well as less tangible concepts such as knowledge or guidance. Research products impact virtually every area of TxDOT's core operations. Dividends may be in terms of lives saved, more efficient operations, improved services, or cost savings. The target is a 20:1 benefit to cost ratio for the research program.

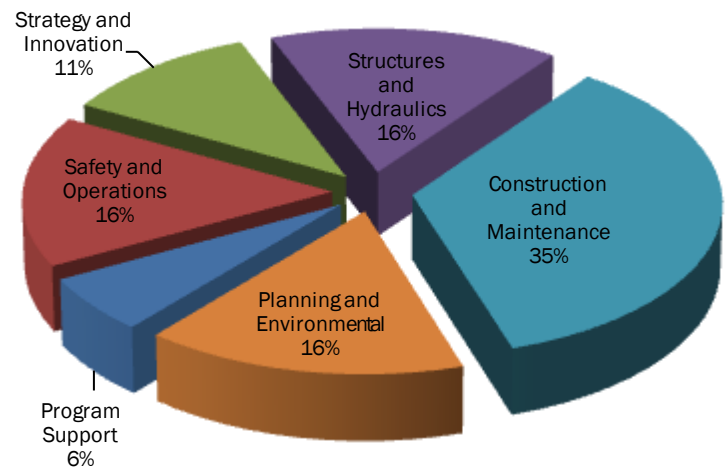


Program Development

A key to success of the Program is that it draws upon the expertise of department personnel from across the state. RTI establishes categories of research based upon TxDOT goals and priorities as well as the input received from TxDOT leadership and personnel (including those in the field) about specific operational or other issues that might be solved through research. TxDOT employees work together to develop focus areas and problem statements, which are then reviewed and used to establish the project Request for Proposals that are issued and proposed on by university researchers. The process allows for innovative research with impactful results to be delivered in a timely manner.



Research Functional Areas



Managing Projects

While university researchers perform the vast majority of the research work, every project has a RTI project manager who manages the project to ensure it provides value to TxDOT. Each project is also overseen by a Project Monitoring Committee made up of TxDOT personnel who are responsible for seeing that the contracted work progresses productively and focuses on delivering viable and well supported results to TxDOT. The committee member most directly charged with these responsibilities is the RTI project manager, who works closely with the other members, an assigned TxDOT Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR), subject matter expert(s), and an executive sponsor.

Contact information

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<http://Txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/research-technology.html>

