



WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH CENTER FACT SHEET

Who we are:

The purpose of the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) Research Center (Center) is to provide increased benefits and greater opportunities for improving the effectiveness of the research and development efforts in the State of Wyoming. The Center follows the procedures and standards set out in *Title 23 of the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Part 420 Subpart B* entitled *Research, Development and Technology Transfer Program Management*, in *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act*, and in the Wyoming Statutes and Operating Policies for the Wyoming Department of Transportation.

The Mission of the Center is to enhance the economic well-being and quality of life in Wyoming by working with public and private partners to produce a safe and efficient transportation system.

The Center goals are as follows:

1. Improve the existing transportation system.
2. Enhance safety on the transportation system.
3. Preserve the existing transportation system.
4. Fairly and equitably fulfill our regulatory and revenue-generating responsibilities.

How we are funded:

The following are various categories of funding available to finance research activities:

A. SP&R - Federal¹

Federal fuel tax monies made available to the State of Wyoming^{2, 3} are currently the main source of funding for the WYDOT research program. The Rules allocate 2% of the total annual transportation disbursement to each state for State Planning and Research (SP&R) activities⁴. The law further stipulates a minimum of 25% of the SP&R funds be reserved for state transportation research, development and technology transfer efforts⁵.

¹ 23 U.S.C. §505; 23 C.F.R. 420 et seq.

² *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), Public Law 112-141 – July 6, 2012 – 126 Stat. 23 U.S.C. §505*

³ *Planning and Research Program Administration Federal Rules 23 C.F.R. 420.103(a)(1)*

⁴ 23 C.F.R. §420.103(1)

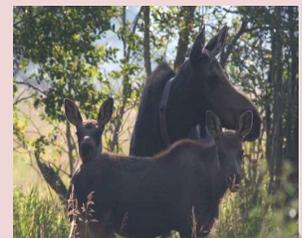
⁵ 23 U.S.C. 505(b)(1)

Contact Info

Timothy McDowell, P.E.
Wyoming DOT
5300 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne WY 82001
307-777-4412
tim.mcdowell@wyo.gov
FAX: 307-777-4759

Enid White, Research
Manager
Wyoming DOT
5300 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne WY 82001
307-777-4182
Enid.white1@wyo.gov
FAX: 307-777-4759

http://www.dot.state.wy.us/wydot/planning_projects



B. State Funds

Because of the limited scope or shortage of federal funds, certain studies and/or local interest projects may be financed with state funds and not submitted for federal participation. These projects are undertaken independent of the research, development and technology program. It is recommended, however, that each branch or district notify the Research Engineer of the project for recordkeeping purposes.

C. National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP)

The WYDOT research program participates in the National Cooperative Highway Research Program. This is a joint program between American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Transportation Research Board (TRB). The program is supported by individual state highway departments with state planning and research (SP&R) funds based on a certain percentage of their SP&R program. These funds do not require a state match. Studies in this program are usually high cost and, having national implication, and are identified through an annual solicitation through AASHTO.

D. Pooled-Fund Projects⁶

When widespread, regional or national interest is shown in a significant problem, research studies of major importance may be conducted on a cooperative basis by several states, FHWA, third parties contractors, universities, and so on. These studies may be conducted using SP&R funds without state matched funds, if so approved by the FHWA Administrator.

What we do:

WYDOT's staff produces positive and meaningful results at every stage of the management process, in the formal reporting activities, and in the implementation and technology transfer activities. Through the processes outlined in the WYDOT Research Guidelines, the Research Center relies on contract research efforts, and utilizes the expertise and skills found at the University of Wyoming, the Mountain Plains Consortium (MPC), other University of Transportation Centers (UTCs), universities, and various private research consultants located throughout the country to reach its goals.

Staff:

WYDOT Research Center has one full-time and one part-time employee.

Facilities:

There are two laboratories in the WYDOT Complex. The first, the Wyoming Materials Lab provides materials and pavement engineering and materials, and roadway testing services to all WYDOT programs. The primary responsibility of the Materials Program is to determine the optimum use of materials used in highway construction. The second laboratory, the Geology Lab, provides engineering geology and geotechnical services to WYDOT programs and other governmental agencies. There are also numerous sites around the state. Though some projects are conducted on site at one of the WYDOT facilities, most are conducted by researchers off site.

Expertise:

The research center administers the research program utilizing expert researchers in the area of research studied.

Library Services:

The Center has an in-house library which houses federal and state publications. Research materials are also available electronically either through the library or through links to other sites.



⁶ <http://www.pooledfund.org/>