

RESEARCH & INNOVATION DIVISION

Who We Are

The Research Division seeks innovative solutions to highway transportation problems on behalf of UDOT. Our services include identifying research ideas, managing research projects, promoting research implementation, coordinating with national research organizations, field-evaluating products, performing literature searches, sharing of research results within the Department and nationally, and providing library services. Our mission is to support the Department in achieving its strategic goals.

What We Do

The UDOT Research Division serves the needs of leaders throughout the Utah Department of Transportation - in both the Region offices and Central divisions - facilitating, supporting, and encouraging innovation. Our research team works with the Federal Highway Administration, Utah's universities, consultants, contractors and UDOT experts to improve practices, solve problems, and to offer high-value information. The Research Division works primarily on applied research projects, field evaluations, and technology transfer (including library services). We also host a research workshop (UTRAC) to identify research that addresses UDOT's highest priorities.

How We Are Funded

Research Division funding is mainly comprised of federal resources including State Planning and Research funds. Combined with state funds, our annual budget is approximately \$3 million for projects and staff. We occasionally obtain universities matching funds on some of our research projects. To ensure the best use of our budget, we work closely with UDOT Division leaders and subject matter experts. Each year, we fund about 20 new research projects and studies.

Expertise

The research staff works with experienced technical engineers within UDOT, experts from universities and consultant firms to prioritize and conduct our research projects. We utilize subject matter experts from structures, materials and pavements, construction, maintenance, traffic safety, traffic management, geotechnical design, planning, asset management, environmental services, hydraulics, and engineering technology.

Staff

Our seven-member staff is comprised of a Director, an Innovation and Implementation Manager and a Coordinator, two Project Managers, a Project Engineer, and a Librarian. Together, we partner with local universities and private entities throughout the state of Utah to conduct meaningful transportation research projects that will contribute to UDOT's strategic goals: zero crashes, injuries and fatalities; optimize mobility; and preserve infrastructure.

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