MnDOT Research Services & Library

Putting Ideas in Motion

Who We Are

The Minnesota Department of Transportation's Research Services & Library section helps solve transportation problems by administering research projects for MnDOT and the Minnesota Local Road Research Board.

We serve as a resource for MnDOT staff as well as city and county engineers, kick-starting research and shepherding projects to completion. At any given time, our staff manages approximately 190 research projects in progress, ranging from local initiatives to pooled-fund projects with other states, comprising both basic and applied research.

MnDOT bridge staff test the use of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle for inspecting a bridge.

What We Do

Services we provide to our customers include:

- Research Projects — conducted by a university professor, MnDOT researcher or consultant
- Implementation Projects — seed funding to put research results into practice
- Transportation Research Syntheses — summaries of research results and/or state-of-practice surveys
- AASHTO-RAC Surveys — quick surveys of other state DOTs via the AASHTO-RAC Listserv
- Pooled-Fund Research — collaborative research efforts with other state DOTs
- National Cooperative Highway Research Program Research
- Full-service Transportation Library
- Marketing and Communications – disseminate research results

How We're Funded

MnDOT Research Services & Library funds more than $14 million in research each fiscal year. Funding for statewide research program comes from state funds, Part II of the State Planning and Research Program (SP&R), the Local Road Research Board (which represents Minnesota city and county engineers) and other sources such as government and university partners.

We have two governing boards: MnDOT's Transportation Research Innovation Group (TRIG) and the Local Road Research Board (LRRB), which funds city/county research priorities.

What We Research

MnDOT maintains a very diverse portfolio of research across all disciplines with transportation. Our projects are divided up among eight strategic research topic areas:

Administrative

- Bridges and Structures
- Environmental
- Materials and Construction
- Maintenance Operations and Security
- Multimodal
- Policy and Planning
- Traffic and Safety

RESEARCH BY TOPIC AREA

6% Environmental
6% Administration
7% Bridges & Structures
8% Multimodal
8% Federal Program Support
9% Maintenance Operations & Security
20% Dedicated Programs (CTS & LTAP)
16% Materials & Construction
10% Policy & Planning
10% Traffic & Safety

Total: $10,651,597

The research program also provides funding to support the federal programs (TRB, NCHRP, SHRP2 and some AASHTO technical programs) the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) and the Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Minnesota.

Staff

Research Services & Library consists of a director and 24 staff, who are divided into four work units:

- **Research Management (8 staff)**: Helping you articulate your research needs, finalize your research work plans, manage your research project and implement the results.
- **Finance and Contract Services (4 staff**)-Identifying potential funding sources, assisting with contract amendments and relieving you of budgetary and regulatory oversight headaches.
- **MnDOT Library (7 staff)** Recognized as one of the nation's most elite transportation libraries, our staff saves you valuable time by honing in on the right resources to answer your questions and providing updated materials to keep you current in your field.
- **Marketing and Communications: (4 staff):** Providing information and results to transportation practitioners and the general public to create awareness and application of research findings.
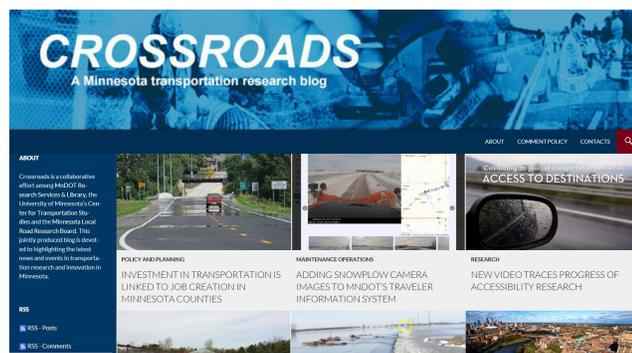
For More Information

Website: mndot.gov/research
Blog: mntransportationresearch.org

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MnDOT Research Services & Library uses a variety of communication tools to disseminate research results, including its website, email list, blog (pictured above), newsletter and social media channels. See what we have to offer at mndot.gov/research.