Who We Are

MDT’s Research Programs are internally-driven applied research, development, and technology transfer (RD&T) programs necessary in connection with the planning, design, construction, management, and maintenance of highway, public transportation, and intermodal transportation systems. Funding is limited and to keep research relevant to MDT staff, implementable results are the goal. Implementation of research results also helps MDT in meeting its mission of providing a transportation system and services that emphasize quality, safety, cost effectiveness, economic vitality, and sensitivity to the environment.

How We Are Funded

Federal fuel tax monies made available to the State of Montana under Title 23, U.S.C., with appropriate state matching funds, are currently the main source of funding for the MDT Research Programs. Since Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991, 2% of the total annual transportation disbursement has been allocated to each state for State Planning and Research (SPR) activities with a minimum of 25% of these funds reserved for state transportation research, development, and technology transfer (RDT) efforts. Additional funds (typically project-specific grants or university matching funds) are provided through universities, FHWA, and other USDOT Administrations; these amounts vary on an annual basis. Current annual SPR federal funds are about $2.5 M.

What We Do

MDT’s Research Programs consists of three programs.

Research Projects - The projects conducted under this applied contract research program solve MDT’s transportation problems and improve efficiency and effectiveness of operational activities. Projects can be initiated in a number of ways: annual solicitation, Montana Partnership for the Advancement of Research in Transportation (MPART) small projects agreement, other partnering projects, and MDT Administration high priority requests.

Experimental Projects - The projects conducted under this applied in-house research program are conducted in conjunction with construction, maintenance, or safety projects to evaluate various materials and methods. Construction or maintenance funds pay for the installation of the experimental feature, which is then evaluated for performance and implementation potential by Research staff.

Technology Transfer - This program involves the sharing of information with MDT staff and the transportation community as a whole through reports, both MDT’s and those from other agencies; library and library services; surveys; Research newsletter; presentations; literature searches; and the Research web site. The Montana Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) is also managed by MDT Research staff.

Staff

MDT’s Research staff is a small team consisting of the Research Programs Manager, an Experimental Project Manager, a consultant research project manager, and a librarian/Technology transfer Specialist.

Links

Research Web Site Home Page
Research Project Solicitation
State of Montana RFPs

Contact Information

MDT Research Programs
2701 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 201001
Helena MT 59620-1001

E-mail: mdtresearch@mt.gov
Phone: 406.444.6338