



Ohio Department of Transportation

Research Program

Who We Are

The Ohio DOT Research Program has been active since 1946. Part of the Division of Planning, the Research Section provides innovative solutions and technical resources to Ohio's transportation professionals through a competitive, contract-based research program.

What We Do

The Research Section oversees the Statewide Planning and Research (SPR) Part B program for the Ohio DOT. Providing administrative oversight, the Research Section uses four core programs to meet Ohio's transportation research needs:

1. Annual Request for Proposals (RFP):

Ohio DOT staff are given the opportunity to submit research ideas to be considered for development into RFPs. These ideas are prioritized, developed into RFPs and posted as an annual solicitation to the transportation research community. Proposals are accepted from both public and private academic institutions as well as the private sector. Submissions from non-Ohio based organizations must include an Ohio-based partner or subcontractor to be considered. While the topics for these projects vary from year to year based on the needs of the Ohio DOT, typical topics include maintenance, structures, hydraulics, pavements, materials, environmental, operations, safety, geotechnical, traffic, construction and planning.



Veterans' Glass City Skyway - Toledo, Ohio

2. Ohio's Research Initiative for Locals (ORIL):

ORIL is a program designed to provide practice-ready solutions to real-world issues facing Ohio's local transportation system through research. It's a

multi-organizational collaborative effort to improve the transportation network in Ohio's counties, townships, cities and villages. ORIL develops, funds and oversees transportation research projects to meet the needs of local agencies for the safety and economic well-being of the traveling public and Ohio. The Research Section acts as the contracting agent and provides funding and project management support for the program.



3. Research-on-Call (ROC):

The ROC is designed to provide the Ohio DOT with direct, quick access to researchers in specific areas of expertise to conduct short-term, focused research tasks that are of urgent need. ROCs expedite the contracting and authorization process for research activities that do not warrant the level of full-scale, individual annual RFP projects. Typically, ROCs are executed by a consortium of research agencies, including academic and private firms, that are coordinated by one lead agency that serves as the ROC Principle Investigator. ROCs are competitively bid through a Request for Qualifications that is posted during an annual RFP solicitation. Each ROC contract is limited to a duration of three years.

4. National Research Activities

The Research Section coordinates national research activities for the Ohio DOT. This includes participation in the Transportation Research Board, the National Cooperative Highway Research Program and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. In addition, the Research Section coordinates the Ohio DOT's involvement in transportation pooled fund projects.

Staff

The Research Section consists of 5 full-time team members. The Program Manager oversees the development and execution of policies, procedures and the SPR-B work program as well as national activities. The Contract Manager oversees the development and execution of all contracts, addenda and fiscal processes. There are two Project Managers in the section. One focuses on projects sponsored by Central Office staff while the other focuses on projects sponsored by District staff. The Technology Transfer Manager assists with national research activities, performs literature reviews and assists on key projects.

Various subject matter experts throughout the Ohio DOT provide technical support on research projects as members of Technical Advisory Committees (TAC). Every project has a TAC established during the development of the RFP. The TAC provides technical oversight and direction to researchers conducting the projects.

How We Are Funded

Ohio DOT research is funded primarily through Part B of the State Planning and Research Program (SPR), along with the required state matching funds. Additional funding has been provided through SPR Part A and various office/division budgets on a project-by-project basis.

Facilities

With our engagement and contracting with the research community, we have access to world-class facilities for research projects and engineering studies. ODOT owns and manages the Ohio Strategic Highway Research Program Specific Pavement Studies Test Road (US 23). Research in both flexible and rigid pavements has been conducted since 1996.

Contact Info

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Streamlining Implementation of Sustainable Channel Maintenance Practices



Evaluation of Trench Drain and Slotted Drain Maintenance and Cleaning



Optimizing the Effective Use of RAP in Local Roadways