

**July 17th, 2019**

**Memorandum of Understanding  
Between  
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials -  
Research Advisory Committee  
and  
Council of University Transportation Centers**

This Memorandum of Understanding is made and entered into this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July, by and between the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) - Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and the Council of University Transportation Centers (CUTC).

The RAC and CUTC (“**the Parties**”) are national organizations focused on transportation research. The RAC is comprised of research managers from state departments of transportation (DOTs). CUTC is an association of transportation research centers and institutes at universities and post-secondary educational institutions. CUTC members include federally funded University Transportation Centers (UTCs) as well as other university-based transportation research centers and institutes. RAC and CUTC have a common interest in advancing transportation research in the United States.

The following facts are recognized and acknowledged by all Parties:

- RAC members plan, develop, and implement state DOT transportation research programs, and participate in the planning, development and implementation of national research initiatives.
- CUTC member organizations operate research, education, workforce development, and technology transfer programs that address critical transportation issues. Many of these organizations have developed targeted themes to maximize technical expertise and resources.
- The member organizations of RAC and CUTC, individual state DOTs and university-based transportation research centers, often collaborate on research projects. State DOT research programs rely on CUTC member universities to help address the research needs of their agencies. Similarly, these collaborative projects provide “real world” research opportunities that benefit university faculty and students.
- The relationship between the Parties has evolved over the past several years. From its origins in 1987, the number of federally funded UTCs grew from 10 centers to more than 30 under the FAST Act legislation. As the number of university-based transportation centers and institutes have grown, so too has the need to foster a closer working relationship between the Parties. In addition, both Parties have recognized there is a significant opportunity for increased collaboration and coordination to meet national needs.

## WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, AASHTO advocates transportation-related policies and provides technical services to support states in their efforts to efficiently and safely move people and goods;

WHEREAS, the Research Advisory Committee to the AASHTO Special Committee on Research and Innovation (SCR&I) is committed to being a proactive committee promoting quality and excellence through critical state and national research programs and thereby improving transportation systems for the traveling public and the movement of goods. Additionally, RAC is an advocate for state and national transportation research by promoting the value of research, the implementation of research results, and the transfer of new technologies;

WHEREAS, the Council of University Transportation Centers provides national transportation leadership by effectively communicating and promoting the contributions of university transportation research, education, and technology transfer. CUTC's vision for the future is to raise the profile of university research and education, so that university-based transportation centers are recognized and called upon for the knowledge creation, innovative research, outreach, and education necessary to have the best transportation system in the world;

WHEREAS, the parties agree that leveraging national research will assist both RAC and CUTC in achieving their individual and collective goals, and,

WHEREAS, the parties agree that a framework for coordination, cooperation, and communication should be defined and is essential for successful research partnerships.

NOW, THEREFORE, in cooperation of the mutual benefits to the respective parties, the Parties agree to the following terms and conditions.

### I. MISSION AND COMMON INTEREST AREAS

- A. The Parties agree to foster collaboration and cooperation between the AASHTO Research Advisory Committee and the Council of University Transportation Centers through a better understanding of how RAC and CUTC operate.
- B. The Parties will work on common interest areas related to research and technology transfer that could include training, transportation funding reauthorization, intergovernmental/university agreements, national research agendas, conduct of research (e.g. best practices, project management and research practices), and performance measures for research.
- C. This agreement is not intended to address all possible relationships with other entities.

## II. ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIP OF PARTIES

- A. RAC/CUTC Liaison Group – RAC and CUTC will designate an appropriate number of individuals to serve on a RAC/CUTC Liaison Group. The Liaison Group will be co-chaired by the RAC Chair and CUTC President (or their designees).
- B. Meetings – Co-chairs will define a schedule of meetings and conference calls that may include but is not limited to presenting at each Party’s respective summer meetings, RAC participating in the CUTC annual business meeting and awards banquet at TRB, or other common venues.

## III. POTENTIAL MOU DELIVERABLES

- A. Strategic acknowledgment of each other’s work: (1) RAC attendance/recognition at CUTC banquet; (2) highlighting UTC achievements at RAC meetings (e.g., successful DOT-UTC partnerships; Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) graduate research awards; and (3) highlighting RAC initiatives and opportunities at CUTC summer meetings.
- B. Increased RAC representation on UTC advisory boards.
- C. CUTC membership (Friends status) on RAC Task Forces (Coordination & Collaboration; Program Management & Quality; and others as identified).
- D. Including sessions related to transportation research management at both RAC and CUTC meetings, e.g., “Ahead of the Curve” (AOTC) training or “teaser” sessions introducing AOTC to new audiences).

## IV. GENERAL

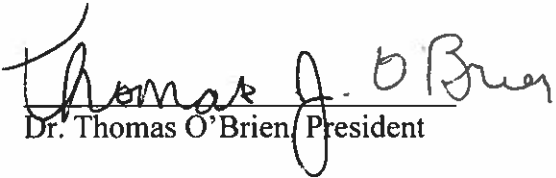
- A. This MOU will terminate upon the earliest of the following events:
  - i. An agreement executed by the Parties to terminate this MOU;
  - ii. With at least thirty (30) days prior written notice of a Party to the other Party expressing an interest to terminate this agreement; or
  - iii. Five (5) years from the date of execution, unless a written extension is executed by the Parties.

**In witness whereof, the Parties do hereunto set their hands the day and year first above written.**

For: (AASHTO-RAC) American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials - Research Advisory Committee

By:  7/17/2019  
Jim Tymon, Executive Director Date

For: (CUTC) Council of University Transportation Centers

By:  7/25/2019  
Dr. Thomas O'Brien, President Date