



**NHDOT**

**March 2020**

## Who We Are

Our mission is to improve the transportation system and services provided to the State of New Hampshire through research and innovation, and to facilitate the implementation and delivery of beneficial technologies.

## How We Are Funded

The NHDOT Research program is funded primarily with State Planning & Research Part II (SPR2) funds. SPR2 funds are distributed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in accordance with federal law. An annual SPR2 Work Program is developed in cooperation with the New Hampshire Division of the FHWA.

The Department has also been successful in securing funds on a project-by-project basis from sources such as the FHWA Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Demonstration and State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) technical assistance funding.

In addition, the New Hampshire DOT has been the Lead Agency on three national pooled-fund studies to date, and a partner on many more. Pooled-fund projects allow the Department to leverage its funds to complete research that is of common interest to other state and federal agencies.

## What We Do

With limited financial resources, the NHDOT Research program focuses on applied research with direct and tangible benefits to the Department. Research studies are generally conducted under agreements or contracts with partners. NHDOT has partnered with universities such as the University of New Hampshire, Plymouth State University, and the University of Vermont. Governmental partners include the US Geological Survey and the ACoE Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory. Private partners are also involved when appropriate. NHDOT strives to get the best expertise for the project.

In addition to the formal SPR2 program, Research plays a lead role in ad hoc problem-solving research and experimental features. Research staff are also

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*"I make more mistakes than anyone else I know, and sooner or later, I patent most of them."*

**Thomas Edison**  
American Inventor  
and Businessman  
(1847-1931)

**What We Do (cont'd)**

involved in specification writing and provide technical assistance to personnel in the NHDOT Operations and Project Development divisions.

Starting with Every Day Counts Round 4 (EDC4), Research has coordinated the implementation plans and progress reports on use of the innovations, STIC incentive funding, and AID grants.

**Staff**

The Research Unit staff include a Research Engineer and Assistant Research Engineer. Staff assume the role of Coordinator for each assigned research project. The Coordinator is responsible for facilitating the project and minimizing the administrative workload of the project's Technical Advisory Group (TAG). Temporary help (interns) are employed on a case-by-case basis.

**Expertise**

The NHDOT research program brings together expertise from both internal and external partners on a wide variety of topics. While the subject matter of research studies is broad and diverse, the Department has assumed a leadership role both regionally and nationally in several significant areas:

- Pavements
- Materials
- Traffic
- Bridges
- Mobility
- Environment
- Aeronautics
- Construction
- Geotechnical
- Maintenance

**Facilities**

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) Research Unit is located in the Bureau of Materials & Research under the direction of the Bureau Administrator.

In addition to Research, the Bureau includes a Geotechnical Section, Materials Technology Section, and Pavement Management Section. The proximity and access to personnel and equipment in these units provide a wide range of capabilities related to Research. These include an AASHTO-accredited laboratory with full testing capabilities associated with hot-mix asphalt, performance-graded binders, Portland cement concrete, soils, aggregates, and other materials; geotechnical explorations and equipment; pavement marking retro-reflectivity meters; and a data-acquisition van for pavement and asset management.