

AASHTO 2020 Summer RAC / TRB State Representatives Meeting

Technology, Pandemics, Budget Cuts and Working From Home: Maintaining The Integrity of Research In The Face of Disruption

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Description – AASHTO's university partners have been experiencing disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the education, research, and budgeting processes. At the same time, the recent protests have created new demands for research that immediately responds to questions of social equity. How have universities responded and what does this mean for the DOT-UTC relationship?

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The Impact on UTC Operations

- Studies involving field work have been negatively impacted as has laboratory-based research due to limited access to facilities
- Technology transfer activities such as conferences, symposia, peer exchanges, and training have been cancelled, delayed or offered virtually
- While projects are on-going, COVID-19 is causing delays from logistical challenges, research protocol reviews taking longer, restricted travel, and more

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Learning to Love Sharepoint





Document Library > Research > Grant_Project_Management

 Name	Modified	Modified By
 Boeing_Project	January 15	 CITT
 C1016-C9001_CEC_WFD	January 14	
 Caltrans_TO19	January 15	
 Caltrans_TO21	January 15	
 DOLETA_FOA-ETA-18-08	January 14	
  FHWA_TEDPP	Yesterday at 10:01 AM	

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+ New Upload Quick edit Sync Export to Excel Power

Document Library

 Name	Modified
 Admin+Mgmt	January 16
 Outreach	June 18, 2019
 Research	January 14

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Finding New Ways to Communicate: Slack and Teams

CITT CSULB ▾
Lehxy Pich

#csfap ☆
10 | Add a topic

Deanna Matsumoto 7:54 AM
In today's LA Times. I'm adding this to the PPT

Deanna Matsumoto 8:03 AM
<https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2020-06-25/new-california-truck-mandate-100-000-zero-emission-commercial-haulers-sold-annually-by-2030>

Los Angeles Times
California mandates big increase in zero-emission trucks
A new state mandate would require 4,000 new zero emission truck sales by 2024 and 300,000 by 2035.
Jun 26th (142 kB)

Channel browser

Search by channel name or description

48 channels

- #annualreport**
3 members
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2 members
- #cec**
4 members
- #centermanagement**
6 members · Messages for Tyler, Sue, Ben, Deanna for Project and Center Management
- #communications**

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Trello Boards

Active Grant Projects

CITT CSULB BC Team Visible LP BO A AC BC +18

Calendar Butler Show Menu

Master Reference

Completed
Work In Progress
Not Started
Priority
Reference
Reporting

Color Code Legend

CURRENT MASTER PROJECT LIST; PROPOSAL LIST; & COST SHARE INFO

Link to SharePoint

AAPA DOLETA 19-09 Apprenticeships: Closing the Skills Gap

Reference

LOS for AAPA

+ Add another card

G2353: CSUTC MTI UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMPETITION: Trucking WFD (Lead: Deanna)

Foundational Documents

Research and Sources

Working Documents

Final Documents

Internal Project Launch Checkoff

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G2255: CSUTC MTI: WFD Needs Assessment for the Transportation and Supply Chain Industry Sectors (Lead: Deanna)

Foundational Documents

Research and Sources

Working Documents

Meeting Notes

Final Documents

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G1754 add-on: SWTW Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Professional Capacity Building (PCB) (Lead: Scott)

ITS PCB Reference

Project Meeting: June

Internal Project Launch

May 21, 2019

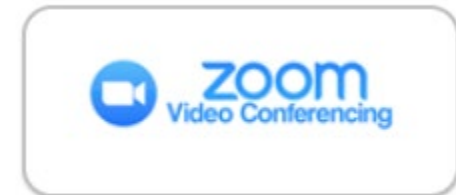
+ Add another card

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Status of Students

- Overall, students and teaching staff have adapted well to virtual learning – some classes were already set-up for some form of virtual education
- Laboratory-based classes are not able to meet, and other education activities that require hands-on activities are on hold
- Some UTCs have provided students with equipment and other logistics that allow them to continue their work
- Lots of attention paid to unique needs of international students



Zoom



Office 365 Office Portal

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Shorter Term Research Direction

As COVID-19 has impacted how, when, and where we travel, studies and data collection have been altered. In some cases, the crisis is causing changes to many planned projects and programs, some by necessity, some in reaction to changes in the current environment. Many UTC partners have requested support for specific research projects as well as an emphasis on topics relevant to the pandemic.

- Dramatically changing transportation patterns are altering studies and data collection.
- Sponsors are requesting short-term projects to analyze COVID-19 impacts to mitigate future impacts.
- Existing scopes of work extended or modified to incorporate COVID-19

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Longer Term Research Direction

- Future of FAST Act Reauthorization?
- Balancing Federal, State and Local Research Goals
- Uncertainty of Match Funding
- Impact of external forces on research: Statewide budget cuts for public universities, pressure of distance-based teaching on research capacity

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Financial Considerations

UTCs get a significant amount of funding from a variety of public and private sources. The pandemic is impacting budgets for many of these programs. This includes sponsored research as well as student support and event sponsorships

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State and Local Funding

- State and local UTC funding will be impacted by COVID-19, when and by how much appears to be a regionally sensitive topic, with several different direct and indirect factors. For UTCs, this may impact not only the funds available for research, but also funds available for the required match for UTC grants.
- Impacts are determined by fiscal calendars; some do not expect to see an impact until 2021 or even 2022 because budgets have already been passed. For others, the financial impact of the crisis hasn't hit state ledgers yet, but they anticipate it will.

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Private Sector Funding

- Many transportation companies are having to freeze work, cut budgets, delay projects or shutter altogether. Other companies are pivoting based upon the crisis. The full impact of the crisis and impact it will have on private dollars is unknown and will trickle down slowly.
- It is too soon to quantify impact, but UTCs anticipate private sector stakeholders reducing research budgets in the short term until the full impact of COVID-19 is understood.
- There may be opportunities for new stakeholders and new funding as a result of the crisis, as some private sector companies may look for research on emergency preparations and response, but it will not make up for the lost revenue.

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Sample Responses

- TTI is conducting internally and externally sponsored research on transportation as a disease vector, and impacts of the pandemic on the supply chain, freight flows at the border, transportation funding in Texas, and changes in crash rates and severity.
- Maryland Transportation Institute has developed a platform that leverages mobile device data and other data sources to measure how social distancing and stay-at-home orders are affecting travel behavior and spread of the coronavirus nationwide and by state, and is updated with new data and metrics daily. <https://data.covid.umd.edu/>
- MTI hosted a webinar addressing the impacts of COVID-19 on the transit industry. The webinar was titled **Transit and COVID-19: How its Impact differs from other emergencies**
- CSULB expanded research on changing workforce practices of SMEs in logistics to include COVID operations



For more information on the portals / list-serve on seminars offered by grantees of the USDOT's UTC Program, follow the link below:

<https://www.transportation.gov/content/utc-webinars-register-now>

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