

Office of Corporate Research, Technology, and Innovation Management (HRTM)

HRTM oversees a national highway research agenda that closes critical knowledge gaps, identifies collaboration opportunities, and accelerates the deployment of innovations and technologies. The office's key responsibilities include providing strategic direction and coordination for the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) research agenda and programs, implementing research innovations, and communicating research results.

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STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND RESEARCH PLANNING

HRTM oversees and performs three core functions:

- Strategic planning: HRTM collaborates with the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Office of the Secretary and other operating administrations to develop the USDOT research, development, and technology strategic plan.⁽¹⁾
- Legislative and intergovernmental action: HRTM provides legislative analysis and support for research and technology (R&T).
- Budget preparation and execution: HRTM leads the coordination and development of FHWA's Annual Modal Research Plan, spending plan, annual R&T budget request, and annual R&T budget delivery plan.⁽²⁾

RESEARCH COORDINATION

The office works with agencies and organizations in the United States and abroad through:

- Liaisons and partnerships: HRTM works with FHWA division offices on R&T issues related to the State Planning and Research Program, the Transportation Research Board, and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.
- International exchanges: HRTM leverages the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center's (TFHRC) associate membership to participate in the Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories.

RESEARCH EXECUTION

HRTM implements a portion of the FHWA R&T portfolio and manages the following programs:

- Exploratory Advanced Research Program: Leverages cutting-edge science and technology to meet the needs of the Nation's transportation systems, focusing on longer term, higher risk, higher potential research.
- National Research Council Research Associateship Program: Provides postdoctoral scientists and engineers the opportunity to conduct transportation research at FHWA.



Source: FHWA.



- Small Business Innovation Research Program: Encourages domestic small businesses to engage in research and development that address high-priority USDOT research areas. The program's goal is to develop and commercialize products and services that meet the needs of end users, including State DOTs, local transportation agencies, and the construction industry, and advance USDOT strategic goals.
- Transportation Pooled Fund Program: Allows State DOTs, FHWA, and other organizations to pool funds, resources, and expertise to conduct joint transportation research projects.

RESEARCH TRANSITION

HRTM evaluates and assesses FHWA research programs and projects and supports the transition of technology from laboratory to implementation. Additionally, the office aims to accelerate the adoption of proven innovative practices and technologies through the following resources:

- R&T Evaluation Program: Assesses project performance, communicates the benefits of R&T projects and programs to stakeholders, and ensures that FHWA is expending public resources efficiently and effectively.
- Technology Transfer Program: Provides support services for moving research from the

laboratory to implementation and transfers market-ready technology to the appropriate FHWA program office, Federal agency, and local or State government.

- FHWA Research Library: Provides research services, including literature searches and digital resources.

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MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

HRTM informs the public and stakeholders on current FHWA-sponsored research through the following:

- Marketing and communications: HRTM manages and disseminates all published communications and information related to FHWA R&T programs.
- Publications and exhibits: HRTM produces research-related publications, including *Public Roads* and *R&T Now*, which highlight research activities and best practices in transportation.^(3,4)
- Website management: HRTM manages the content and development of the TFHRC website in support of all FHWA R&T programs.

REFERENCES

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2. USDOT. 2023. "RD&T Annual Modal Research Plans" (web page). <https://www.transportation.gov/administrations/assistant-secretary-research-and-technology/rdt-annual-modal-research-plans>, last accessed November 7, 2023.
3. FHWA. 2023. "Public Roads Magazine" (web page). <https://highways.dot.gov/public-roads/home>, last accessed November 1, 2023.
4. FHWA. 2023. "R&T Now Home" (web page). <https://highways.dot.gov/research/publications/RTNow>, last accessed November 1, 2023.

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