Research Roundup

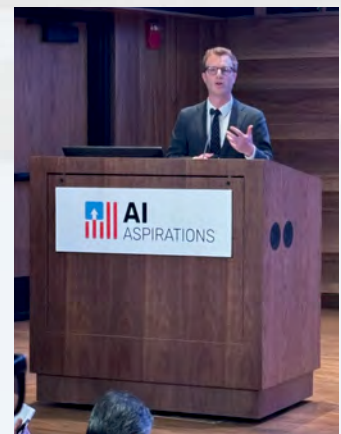## USDOT AWARDS NEARLY $60 MILLION IN V2X GRANTS

The USDOT awarded nearly $60 million in advanced vehicle technology grants to projects in Arizona, Texas, and Utah. These grants will enhance transportation safety, efficiency, and sustainability through the implementation of cutting-edge vehicle technologies, including Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) communication systems. Principal DAS Dr. Robert C. Hampshire announced the award in Utah with FHWA Administrator Bhatt, while ITS JPO Director Brian Cronin announced the Arizona award in Phoenix. A Texas award event is upcoming. "As this Department explores every measure that can help reduce roadway fatalities, connected vehicle technology—like V2X—has potential to make roads safer and save lives," said **U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg**. [Read the Press Release here](#).

WHITE HOUSE AI ASPIRATIONS CONVENING: R&D FOR PUBLIC MISSIONS

At the recent AI Aspirations convening by the White House/Office of Science and Technology Policy, DAS Hampshire joined other experts to discuss the transformative potential of AI in transforming America's capabilities. OST-R Senior Advisor and Director of Strategic Initiatives Ben Levine presented on the potential for AI to dramatically accelerate the planning, design, and implementation of safety projects ([AI for Transportation](#)). Our commitment to leveraging AI for the nation's progress remains steadfast and forward-looking. Read more from the [White House Press Release](#).

ADVANCING RURAL MOBILITY PROJECT

Stan Caldwell, Director of the SMART Grants Program, highlighted the Advancing Rural Mobility Project at a recent event in Charlevoix County, Michigan. This initiative, backed by a 1.3-million-dollar federal investment, aims to integrate real-time public transit information across rural areas to improve access to essential services and economic opportunities.

Photo credit: Sara J. Martin, Photographer--MDOT Media Services

UTC AT JOHNS HOPKINS

In a recent visit to the University Transportation Centers (UTC) grantee Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, DAS Hampshire emphasized the importance of integrating public health considerations into transportation policies. He highlighted the role of climate-smart transportation in promoting community well-being and the need for innovative solutions to reduce emissions and improve air quality.

Watch the recording here.

NOTEWORTHY

- The Biden-Harris Administration recently announced initiatives to expand access to capital for small and medium-sized climate businesses, highlighting the SMART program. **Read more from the White House Press Release**.

- Congratulations to **HASS COE Director Stephen Zoepf, Ph.D.** on his paper, "**When Efficiency Meets Equity in Congestion Pricing and Revenue Refunding Schemes,**" being published on IEEE Xplore! Congestion pricing has long been hailed as a means to mitigate traffic congestion; however, its practical adoption has been limited due to the resulting social inequity issue (e.g., low-income users are priced out of certain roads). This paper bridges this gap through the study of congestion pricing and revenue refunding schemes in non-atomic congestion games.

- Join HASS COE and USDOT colleagues, both novices and experts, **in an emerging community of practice focused on distributed testing (DT)**. We'll discuss factors impacting the suitability of DT for your project, including stakeholder engagement, resources, timelines, technology factors, and policy and organizational support. This collaborative exchange aims to determine if DT is appropriate for your needs. Contact **Joshua.Every@dot.gov** for more information.

- Smart Community Resource Center–Resources to Advance ITS Deployments: **The Summer 2024 issue of Public Roads magazine** features advancements in innovative road technologies and sustainable infrastructure projects.

- Dr. Gretchen Goldman spoke at the **USDOT Climate Change Center webinar series**. The June 18 webinar focused on DOT Research & Technology and included remarks from DAS Hampshire. She also received recognition from the Department of Commerce's Under Secretary for presenting at the Climate Tech Training for Patent Examiners!

UPCOMING

Explore upcoming webinars, conferences and opportunities from OST-R program offices.

- **USDOT Transportation Applications of Large Language Models Workshop: Tuesday, July 9: 10AM - 3PM ET** at **USDOT Headquarters** and **virtually**. This event features briefings from Amazon Web Services (AWS) specialists and immersive hands-on demonstrations. Co-hosted by HASS COE and the U.S. DOT AI Working Group, this workshop will showcase cutting-edge technology. **Register now**.

- **Annual SMART Summit:** DAS Robert Hampshire will deliver the opening remarks, setting the stage for this important gathering of SMART grantees. Technical experts from OST-R, FTA, FAA, FHWA, BTS, Volpe, and more will be in attendance. **July 10 - 11 at the Volpe Center in Cambridge, MA**.

- **USDOT Quantum Technologies in Transportation Workshop: Wednesday, July 10, 8:30AM - 4:00PM at U.S. DOT Headquarters in Washington, D.C.** Co-hosted by HASS COE and ARPA-I, this workshop will feature a panel of experts from the quantum and transportation sectors to explore new opportunities. **Register now**.

- **USDOT Transportation Climate Solutions Symposium: July 12**, DAS Hampshire will join DOE Principal DAS Marootian, White House Deputy Director for Industrial Innovation Gallegos, and Gretchen Goldman, Climate Change Research & Technology Director, in an event at DOT Headquarters to celebrate results in transportation decarbonization. The event will include an "Innovation for Transportation Tech Showcase" on Third Street Plaza.

- **TRB Automated Road Transportation Symposium 2024:** HASS COE will present at the TRB Automated Road Transportation Symposium 2024 from **July 29 to August 1**. Ashley Nylen and Senior Scientist Mubassira Khan will lead a session on USDOT grants and automated transportation research. Ashley will also present a poster on digital infrastructure. Senior Strategist Jason JonMichael will lead a session with first responders on automated vehicle research and incident management. **Register now**.

- **Inaugural U.S. DOT Future of Transportation Summit: August 13-15** at U.S. DOT Headquarters in Washington, DC will host the first ever U.S. DOT Future of Transportation Summit, sponsored by the flagship U.S. DOT UTC Program.

UTC CORNER

EXCITING NEWS!

As part of the Council of University Transportation Centers (CUTC) meeting, UTC program staff recently toured the SpaceX launch facility near Brownsville, Texas, viewing projects like the Starship rocket and a 1 million square foot office building.

Upcoming UTC webinar topics include:

- *Virtual Reality Simulation to Evaluate Drivers' Mental Models of Advanced Vehicle Technologies (July 9)*

- *Attention and Adaptation of Teen Drivers to Driving Automation Systems (July 11)*

- *Pedestrian Behavior at Crosswalks in Modern Roundabouts using Virtual Reality (July 16)*

- Visit the **UTC website** for all upcoming and past webinars.

IN THE MEDIA

- *USDOT Awards Contra Costa Transportation Authority SMART Grant*

- *NDOT Devices Capture Near-Miss Traffic Data in Nashville*

- *Arizona Serves as Automotive Technology Model, Receives Nearly $20 Million in Grants*

- *Utah DOT Receives One of Three National V2X Grants*

- *OST-R's Madeline Zhu Visits 7 SMART Projects in Southern CA*

Scan the QR code to opt-in to our mailing list to receive our monthly newsletter. **Find us online**.

Questions, comments or ideas for future issues? Send us an email: USDOTresearch.info@dot.gov