



# Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology

May 2024

# Research Roundup

## OST-R LEADS USDOT DELEGATION IN DUBLIN

DAS Robert Hampshire recently travelled to Dublin, Ireland, to lead a USDOT delegation at the biennial **Transport Research Arena (TRA)** conference, on the theme of “Transport Transitions: Advancing Sustainable and Inclusive Mobility.” He was joined by FHWA Administrator Shailen Bhatt and representatives from OST-R, FHWA, FMCSA, FRA and ITS JPO. While there, DAS Hampshire met with European research leaders to discuss international research cooperation and collaboration, including Minister Eamon Ryan, Irish Minister for the Environment, Climate, Communications and Transport. DAS Hampshire also spoke at two conference sessions; the opening plenary on “Safe and Inclusive Transport” and a Ministerial Roundtable on “Transport Policy and Regulation.”



*IDAS Hampshire and panelists at Transport Research Arena (TRA). Photo credit: TRA*

## ITSA RECAP

April 22-24, OST-R and ITS JPO staff led several sessions at the **ITS America** annual conference, in Phoenix, AZ. DAS Hampshire, ITS JPO Director Cronin, Director for RD&T Coordination Cain, and other OST-R officials and staff also participated in multiple panels. OST-R staff will also attend ITS World Congress held September 16-20 in Dubai, UAE.

## DOT BY THE NUMBERS

Transportation services (for-hire, in-house, and household transportation) contributed \$1.7 trillion (6.7%) to an enhanced U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) of \$26.2 trillion in 2022.



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# SMART PROJECTS LAUNCH ACROSS THE COUNTRY

**Members of the OST-R team participated in multiple SMART project demonstrations in April.** On April 11, DAS Hampshire delivered virtual remarks while other members of the SMART team were on the ground in Bethel, AK. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities received a \$2 million dollar SMART grant for the [Alaska Rural Remote Operations Work Plan \(Project ARROW\)](#) which equips rural Alaskans with drones to inspect and collect data on ice roads which are essential to access to critical services.

April 24, DAS Hampshire delivered [remarks at a joint demonstration and event with representatives of two SMART grant projects in the Phoenix, AZ.](#) These projects featured connected vehicle demonstrations and improved intersection signaling to

improve intersection signaling to improve vulnerable road user safety in Phoenix. SMART Grant partners include Maricopa County DOT, Arizona State University, the University of Arizona, and Chicanos Por La Causa. DAS Hampshire also had an opportunity to meet with students from the SciTech Institute's Chief Science Officers Programs, as well as students from University of Arizona and Arizona State University.



DAS Hampshire met with students from the SciTech Institute.  
USDOT image

## NOTEWORTHY

**DAS Hampshire visited the SMARTER UTC at Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD.** May 2.

Local media coverage: [USDOT Sends \\$15M Grant to Morgan State University for Smart Intersection Research.](#)

**Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program will host Phase I Pitch Day Week.** May 13-17, thirty-eight selected small businesses will "pitch" their Phase I proposals to DOT evaluation teams who will have the opportunity to ask questions. SBIR Phase I award recommendations for the 24.1 Solicitation will be announced in June with contracts to be awarded this summer.

### In the media

- [NJT Deploying AI Systems to Boost Grade Crossing Safety](#) appeared in *Railway Age*. New Jersey Transit will partner with the [Rutgers University Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation \(CAIT\)](#) UTC to implement Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered systems at light rail grade crossings and on rights-of-way.



## UPCOMING

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

- **[Small Business Research Initiative \(SBIR\) Phase I solicitation Complete Streets AI Initiative](#)**: \$15 million to develop an interactive decision support tool for state and local transportation agencies that offers suggestions for Complete Streets improvements on a network-level for communities. **Closes May 10**
- **[Webinar: U.S. DOT Quantum Technologies 101](#)**. Co-hosted by HASS COE and ARPA-I, this webinar will provide an overview of the groundbreaking potential of new quantum technologies and how they can revolutionize the transportation industry. Contact [hass-coe@dot.gov](mailto:hass-coe@dot.gov). **May 28, 12pm ET**
- **[AI Assurance Workshop](#)**. Virtual workshop featuring technical talks and panel discussions. Session topics will focus on government AI safety programs, research needs and priorities, AI risks, data assurance, design time assurance, and operation time assurance. **May 29-30, 11:30am-4:30pm ET**
- **[DOT Climate Change Center 2024 Webinar Series: Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Transportation](#)**. Monthly series hosted by The DOT Climate Change Center focused on various climate change and transportation topics. **May 30, 1pm**
- **[RFI: Opportunities and Challenges of Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) in Transportation Advanced Research Projects](#)**. ARPA-I is seeking input on the potential applications of artificial intelligence (AI) in transportation, as well as emerging challenges and opportunities in creating and deploying AI technologies in applications across all modes of transportation. **Closes July 2**
- **[US DOT Future of Transportation Summit](#)**: Keynotes from US DOT and other Federal agency leaders, panel and presentations from Congress, industry, non-Profit and other stakeholders. US DOT Headquarters, Washington, DC. Registration required. **August 13-15**

## OKC ON THE RADAR

April 30-May 1, OST-R's UTC staff and DAS Hampshire visited the [Region 6 UTC at University of Oklahoma](#) (Norman) to deliver opening remarks for their Workforce Development Symposium discussing workforce needs and challenges. DAS Hampshire spoke at a second event [highlighting the university's Radar Innovations Lab](#).

The OST-R team also had an opportunity to meet with staff and directors at the [Transportation Safety Institute](#) in nearby Oklahoma City. In 2023 TSI provided safety training to more than 33,000 people across all modes of transportation in aviation, highway, transit, pipeline and hazardous materials safety.



DAS Hampshire (1st row, 4th from left) and RD&T Dir. Ibrahim (1st row 3rd from left) with TSI staff. USDOT image

## UTC CORNER

The UTC program has a [full library of past webinars available from our university partners on YouTube](#).

Upcoming webinar topics include: [15th Annual Mineta National Transportation Policy Summit](#) (May 17) and [Emergency Preparedness in Motion: The Role of ICS in Transportation](#) (May 22).

