



Research Roundup

NEW SMART GRANT AWARDEES ANNOUNCED

March 14, DAS Hampshire announced the latest awardees of the **FY23 SMART Grants Phase 1 competition**, at an event in Johnstown, PA. This round of grants includes **34 projects nationally totaling over \$54 million in 24 states** including the Emergency Life Saving through Multi-modal Mobility (ELSa-M3) project in Johnstown. ELSa-M3 received a \$2 million SMART award to use advanced drone technology to improve access to healthcare and emergency medical services in life-critical situations to underserved and geographically hard to access areas. [The full list of award winners is available on the SMART webpage](#)



February 26: DAS Hampshire with Accomack, VA resident Elva Malone who received her medication via drone delivery.
Photo credit: Stan Caldwell

ICYMI

February 26, DAS Hampshire provided remarks at a SMART grant drone delivery demonstration in rural Virginia. [The Elevating Health Care Access \(EHCA\) project](#) received a \$1.8 million SMART grant to use drones to provide vital hypertension meds to patients on the Commonwealth's Eastern Shore. News Coverage: [New program tests delivering medications via drone in rural Virginia](#)

DOT BY THE NUMBERS

For the **first 11 months of 2023, 1.4% of flights have been canceled**, far below the 2.5% cancellation rate for the first 11 months of 2022 and the 2.0% cancellation rate for first 11 months of pre-pandemic 2019



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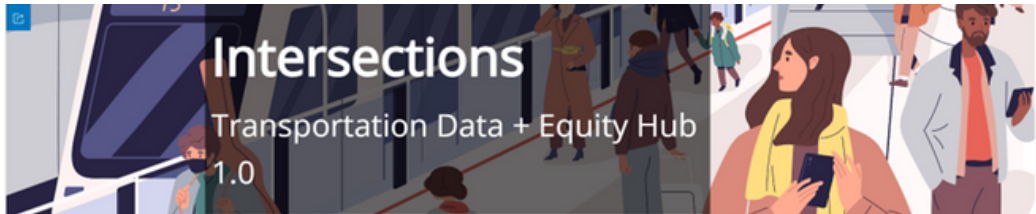


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BTS LAUNCHES DATA AND EQUITY TOOL

In mid February the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) released the [Transportation Data and Equity Hub \(Hub\). Intersections](#), is a one-stop-shop to find tools, metrics, and data to analyze transportation access and the impacts of the transportation system on communities. Users can explore data, maps, and other visualizations of equity-related data by visiting the [Explore the Data](#), [Variable Explorer](#), or [Tools, Maps and Apps](#) pages. Users can also utilize this Hub to make their own maps using free data and tools provided by DOT. Intersections was released in conjunction with the [2023 update of the DOT Equity Action Plan](#) which outlines new actions DOT is committing to across the following five focus areas: Wealth Creation; Power of Community; Proactive Intervention, Planning, and Capacity Building; Expanding Access; and Institutionalizing Equity.



NOTEWORTHY

In the media:

- [The New York City Fire Department \(FDNY\) is tapping technology from the smart transportation-focused C2SMARTER research center \[a Tier 1 UTC\] to speed up emergency responses in traffic-congested areas.](#) They will be developing a digital twin of one FDNY precinct.
- An article in [AutoNews highlighted the work of the Highly Automated Systems Safety Center of Excellence.](#) The piece discussed HASS COE's role in exploring the impact of AI on roads, air travel and cross-modal collaboration.
- [CPNT Go Time for USDOT: An Exclusive Interview with the PNT Director](#), Inside GNSS interview with Karen Van Dyke published March 7.

On February 29, the Biden/Harris Administration issued a statement on [Addressing National Security Risks to the US Auto Industry](#), followed by a Fact Sheet: [Biden-Harris Administration Takes Action to Address Risks of Autos from China and Other Countries of Concern](#). "The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has long worked to ensure security and trust capabilities are woven into the fabric of Connected Vehicle To Everything (V2X) Communications. These technologies have the potential to reduce crashes on our roadways, and depend upon clear, uninterrupted communication to provide the maximum safety benefits. As a leading action, the Department of Commerce issued an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) to investigate national security risks posed by connected vehicles from countries of concern. DOT remains committed to ensuring vehicles and infrastructure can trust and act on information received over the V2X eco-systems, and those messages must be signed by a certificate from a trusted Secure Credential Management System (SCMS) Providers."

March 2, 2024, Sue Connors retired as Volpe Center's Director of Operations after more than 40 years of Federal service. Sue joined the Volpe Center in 2001 as Director of Human Resources and served as acting Chief of Staff in 2006/2007. She became Director for Operations in 2018 where she oversaw many critical, organization-wide efforts. Congratulations on retirement!



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

UPCOMING

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

- **Mobility Equity Research Initiative NOFO:** \$2.9 million to institutions of higher education to advance research and technologies that support expanding accessibility and mobility to underserved communities. **Closes March 5.**
- **HASS Connects:** Guest speaker Claire Delaunay, Chief Technology Officer at farm-ng. For more info, contact denise.bakar@dot.gov **March 7.**
- **FY22/23 Rural Automated Vehicle (RAV) NOFO:** \$25 million for two cooperative agreements to work with rural communities to address the challenges of bringing highly automated and autonomous technologies to rural Americans. **Closes March 13.**
- **Small Business Research Initiative (SBIR) Phase I solicitation Complete Streets AI Initiative:** \$15 million award 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. **Open March 11. Informational workshop will be held March 21, 1pm.**
- **Request for Quotations PNT:** The Volpe Center is seeking proposals from industry to deploy very high Technical Readiness Level (TRL ≥ 8) Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT) services. **Offers due March 25.**
- **DOT Climate Change Center 2024 Webinar Series: Transit-Oriented Development.** Monthly series hosted by The DOT Climate Change Center focused on various climate change and transportation topics. **March 25, 2:30pm**
- **Steel Slag Research Initiative NOFO:** \$5 million to an accredited research university, in partnership with a US steel producer, to conduct research on the properties of steel slag materials for use in cement and concrete. **Closes March 27.**

UTC CORNER

UTC Director, Professor Named to NAE: [Rory Cooper](#), Director of the Automated Vehicle Services for People with Disabilities--Involved Responsive Engineering (ASPIRE) UTC at the University of Pittsburgh and Prof. [Patricia Mokhtarian](#), a former President of the International Association of Travel Behavior (IATBR), and a member of the USDOT National Center on the Future of Travel Behavior and Demand (TBD) as well as the USDOT Tier 1 Center on Teaching Old Models New Tricks (TOMNET) were both recently elected to the prestigious [National Academy of Engineering](#).

The National Safety Summit of the University Transportation Centers hosted by Safety21/Carnegie Mellon University will be held **April 4** in Washington, DC.

Save the Date:
Safety21 National Safety Summit
Thursday, April 4, 2024
in Washington, DC

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

Upcoming webinar topics include: *The Drive for Dollars: How Fiscal Politics Shaped Urban Freeways and Transformed American Cities* (3/19) and *Learning and Control for Safety, Efficiency, and Resiliency of Embodied AI* (3/21)

