

Office of Research Services (HRRS)

The Office of Research Services (HRRS) oversees the strategic direction and coordination of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) research agenda and programs; management and operation of a federally owned and operated research facility called the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center (TFHRC) in McLean, VA; and communication about research projects, research results, and technology transfer.



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FACT SHEET

HRRS is composed of three teams. The **Research and Technology (R&T) Program Development and Partnership Team** develops and executes strategic direction, policy, budget, program management, and administrative mechanisms to carry out a nationwide FHWA R&T program in cooperation with our partners. The **Marketing and Communications (MarCom) Team** provides the public and partners with knowledge of and access to research projects and results, including the development and execution of a comprehensive communications strategy, marketing plan, and mechanisms that support FHWA-wide R&T programs. The **Resource Management Team** provides administrative, resource, and logistical services for the Office of Research, Development, and Technology (RD&T) and TFHRC, including financial management; information technology; human

resources; and property and inventory management. The team also manages TFHRC's facilities, consisting of about 178,000 square feet of buildings housing 15 laboratories, a library, office space, and data centers on 43 acres of paved, turf, and forested land.

Strategic Direction and Research Planning

HRRS oversees a national highway research agenda that fills critical knowledge gaps, identifies collaboration opportunities, accelerates the deployment of innovations and technologies, and manages the Center's resources to support the strategic direction.

HRRS activities include the following:

- Collaboration with the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Office of the Secretary

and other operating administrations to develop FHWA's RD&T strategic plan.⁽¹⁾

- Legislative analysis and support for R&T.
- Research budget preparation and execution 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 national and State organizations and agencies, FHWA divisions, and other transportation organizations. Coordination includes the following:

- State Planning and Research Program.⁽³⁾
- Transportation Research Board Core Program Services.
- National Cooperative Highway Research Program.



- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and National Research Council.
- Transportation Pooled Fund Program.⁽⁴⁾

Research Transition

HRRS 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 as standard practice through the following resources:

- Assessment of project performance and communication of the benefits of R&T projects and programs to stakeholders.
- Access to research projects, research results, and technology transfer via the FHWA R&T website, searchable databases, and communication of market-ready technology to the appropriate FHWA program office, Federal agency, State or local government, and the public.

Marketing and Communications

HRRS promotes FHWA's R&T program by disseminating information to stakeholders and the public through MarCom strategies. These strategies include developing messaging, managing communications, implementing outreach initiatives, and sharing information and research results through traditional and digital marketing. The MarCom Team supports FHWA's research efforts through the following services:

- Publishing services for all RD&T research publications and periodicals, including *Public Roads* magazine and the *R&T Now* newsletter, which highlight research activities, best practices, and innovations in transportation.^(5,6)
- Marketing and outreach, including materials; exhibits; and electronic media, such as videos and virtual tours, to showcase TFHRC research projects and the expertise of TFHRC scientists and engineers.
- Online and electronic engagement, including internal and external websites to support all FHWA R&T programs, videos, webinars, and social media.
- Access to published research through the FHWA Research Library and its journal, magazine, and digital resource subscriptions. The FHWA Research Library lends and borrows materials, conducts literature searches, and provides customers with the information needed to achieve FHWA's mission and research goals.

Resource Management

HRRS plans, coordinates, and supports vital services that form the backbone of business operations at TFHRC. These services include the following:

- Oversight of budgets, finances, and purchase requests and supervision of acquisitions, contracts, and allotments for RD&T-supported research and general operating expenses, financial reconciliations, and reporting.
- Management of administrative programs, workforce planning, employee development, and competitive sourcing. HRRS is also

responsible for TFHRC emergency planning and continuity of operations.

- Coordination and purchase of all technology devices and electronics, wireless communication devices, Internet technology and services, and helpdesk support for the research facility and programs.
- Maintenance of all TFHRC physical property, equipment and inventory, records management, space management assistance, and administration of USDOT vehicles.

References

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