



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

RESEARCH ROUNDUP

>>> U.S. DOT RELEASES NATIONAL VEHICLE-TO-EVERYTHING DEPLOYMENT PLAN

August 16



Credit: USDOT

Dr. Robert C. Hampshire, DOT Chief Scientist and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, led the U.S. Department of Transportation's groundbreaking launch of the National Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) Deployment Plan. He was joined on stage by Shailen Bhatt, Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and NTSB Chair Jennifer Homendy (via virtual feed), along with several public and private sector stakeholders for a [panel discussion](#) on next steps, including timelines for implementation. This initiative aims to enhance road safety by enabling real-time communication between vehicles, infrastructure, and vulnerable road users, significantly reducing the likelihood of crashes and improving traffic management across the country.

Read more from the [Press Release](#) and be sure to view the [V2X Communications Summit Page](#) for the [recording of the press conference](#) and additional communications materials.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE UTC FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT AND PANEL <<<

August 14

Dr. Robert C. Hampshire, DOT Chief Scientist and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, alongside a distinguished panel of experts including Christopher Coes, Acting Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy; Dr. Firas Ibrahim, Director of the Office of Research, Development and Technology; Dr. Randa Radwan, Senior Advisor on Safety and Mobility; and Caesar Singh, Director of the US DOT University Transportation Centers (UTC) Program, spoke at the Future of Transportation Summit. The summit brought together thought leaders from across the transportation sector to discuss innovative solutions and strategies for enhancing safety, mobility, and technology in our transportation systems. The Summit was led by Carnegie Mellon University's Safety21 National UTC, and over 450 participants attended the 3-day event at USDOT Headquarters in Washington, DC. Read more from the event [here](#).

Dr. Hampshire also led a Modal Administrations' Executives panel, featuring leaders from the Maritime Administration, Federal Railroad Administration, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Technical Center for the Office of NextGen, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration. This panel focused on interagency collaboration and the future of transportation safety and efficiency across different modes.

For more details on the summit, visit [here](#).



Credit: USDOT



Credit: USDOT

OST-R NEW APPOINTEES

>>> BEN LEVINE PROMOTED TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY



CREDIT: USDOT

Ben Levine, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Senior Advisor, was promoted to Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology in OST-R. Bringing a rich background in infrastructure finance and policy innovation, Ben previously served as the founding Executive Director of the MetroLab Network, a non-profit that harnesses research to tackle urban policy challenges. His experience spans significant roles at the U.S. Department of the Treasury and Morgan Stanley. Ben is a Wharton School alumnus, holding a Bachelor of Science from the University of Pennsylvania. His leadership continues to propel forward our mission in research and technology.

Read more on Ben [here](#).

DR. TAYLOR LOCHRANE, P.E. APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF HASS COE <<<

Dr. Taylor Lochrane, P.E., was recently named the new Director of the Highly Automated Systems Safety Center of Excellence (HASS COE). With two decades of leadership in transportation safety and automation, Dr. Lochrane has notably served as Deputy Director and Chief Scientist of HASS COE, spearheading the office's establishment and its mission to enhance the safety of automated systems nationwide. His previous role as the Cooperative Driving Automation Program Manager at the Federal Highway Administration further solidifies his expertise in advancing transportation research and safety initiatives.

Read Dr. Lochrane's full bio [here](#).



CREDIT: USDOT

UPCOMING

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

- [METRANS Seminar: September 4](#)
 - Dr. Hampshire will be speaking at the upcoming METRANS Seminar on **September 4**, discussing the latest advancements and research in transportation policy and technology.
- [HBCU Research AI Summit: September 10](#)
 - Principal DAS Hampshire will be attending the HBCU AI Research Summit on **September 10**, showcasing his commitment to advancing research and innovation within Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This summit presents an excellent opportunity for collaboration and sharing insights that align with U.S. DOT's mission and goals.
- [The Intelligent Transportation Systems \(ITS\) Midwest Conference and Expo: September 4 - 6](#)
 - The Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Midwest Conference and Expo in Rosemont, Illinois, will take place **September 4 - 6**. The conference will explore the latest in intelligent transportation systems and the audience will hear updates from U.S. DOT experts on innovative mobility solutions and safety initiatives. Don't miss our sessions on integrating Vehicle-to-Everything technology and the Intersection Safety Challenge.
- [Pathways to Entrepreneurship Program: September 10](#)
 - The program will focus on advancing equity and inclusion in transportation, featuring keynote addresses, panel discussions, and insights from leaders like Stan Caldwell, SMART Director, on fostering a more inclusive future.
- [ITS America Expo, "Artificial Intelligence – Unlocking the Next Frontier in Transportation: September 11](#)
 - Dr. Hampshire will deliver the keynote address at the ITS America 2024 Annual Meeting, discussing the future of intelligent transportation systems and innovation in mobility.
- [Transportation Innovation First Day event at New Lab: September 11 - 12](#)
 - Ben Levine will be presenting virtually at the Transportation Innovation First Day event at New Lab, where three SBIR recipients, including projects on FMCSA, drones, and charging technologies, will showcase their innovations.
- [Civil GPS Service Interface Committee \(CGSIC\) Annual Meeting: September 16 - 17](#)
 - The upcoming Civil GPS Service Interface Committee (CGSIC) meeting, chaired by Karen Van Dyke, Director for Positioning, Navigation, and Timing & Spectrum Management, U. S. DOT is open to the public and will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, **September 16 - 17**. Highlights from the September 17 Plenary Session include presentations on "Civil PNT Threats and Countermeasures" by Professor Dr. Todd Humphreys from the University of Texas at Austin, and "Francis Scott Key Bridge Collapse" by Scott Kelly, Division Chief of the U.S. Coast Guard Bridge Program.

Photo Credit: U.S. DOT

Get the inside scoop on all things OST-R! Simply scan the QR code to join our mailing list and receive exciting monthly updates directly to your inbox. Don't miss out—connect with us [online](#) for more insights!



NOTEWORTHY

• Launch of the TRB Critical Issues in Transportation for 2024 and Beyond Website

- We are excited to announce the launch of the new TRB Critical Issues in Transportation website! This platform is designed to make it easier to explore and share important research on key transportation topics. Visit the site to discover how you and your colleagues can contribute to leveraging transportation's potential for a thriving society. Check it out [here](#).

• U.S. DOT Awards \$2 Million to 12 Small Businesses Through CSAI Initiative

- The U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded \$2 million to 12 small businesses as part of the Comprehensive Strategic AI (CSAI) Initiative, aimed at fostering innovation and supporting emerging technologies in the transportation sector. This initiative reflects USDOT's commitment to enhancing safety, efficiency, and sustainability through cutting-edge artificial intelligence solutions. For more details, visit [here](#).

• Pacific Territory Highway Safety Training Delivered by TSI and NHTSA

- During the week of August 5-9, 2024, TSI and NHTSA conducted specialized training on Highway Safety Grants Management and Data-Driven Highway Safety Planning for the Pacific Territories, including Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and American Samoa. This training, tailored to the unique regulatory environment of the Territories, equipped 40 participants with essential skills and knowledge to enhance highway safety through effective grant management and data utilization, fostering improved safety programs for underserved communities.



CREDIT: USDOT

• The U.S. DOT Volpe Center Achieves LEED Platinum Certification

- The U.S. DOT Volpe Center has been awarded a LEED Platinum certification by the U.S. Green Building Council, recognizing its exceptional sustainability and resilience. This achievement reflects a collaborative effort involving partners like Atelier Ten and Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, emphasizing a design that maximizes daylight and minimizes energy use. For more on the sustainability and design of the U.S. DOT Volpe Center, visit [here](#).

Photo Credit: U.S. DOT

• Biden-Harris Administration Expands FLOW Initiative to Major West Coast Ports

- The Biden-Harris Administration has expanded the Freight Logistics Optimization Works (FLOW) initiative to include the largest container ports on the West Coast, aiming to strengthen national supply chains and enhance port efficiency. This expansion is a significant step toward optimizing freight movement and ensuring the resilience of our supply chain infrastructure. Learn more about this initiative [here](#).

• ITS4US Deployment Program Phase 3 Launch

- The HIRTA ITS4US team successfully launched Phase 3 of their project in mid-August with a comprehensive marketing and media campaign. The initiative included a radio ad, postcards sent to Dallas County residents, tailored outreach toolkits, and planned social media and media releases to maximize community engagement and awareness.

• New "Investing in America" Video Focuses on Accessibility

- The latest "Investing in America" video is now available, highlighting accessibility and featuring insightful guests and disability champions. Congratulations to everyone involved in creating this impactful content. Watch the video on YouTube [here](#).



>>> DISTRACTION ACTION FORUM



On Wednesday, August 28th, the Office of the Secretary of Transportation, along with NHTSA hosted the Distraction Action Forum. More than 150 experts in the field came together to inform NHTSA's distraction action roadmap. Deputy Secretary Trottenberg, Acting Under Secretary of Transportation Coes, FHWA Deputy Administrator Kristin White, and FMCSA Deputy Administrator Vinn White opened the event, which also featured research presentations from OST-R, NHTSA, FRA and numerous academic and private sector researchers.

These additional resources/references may also be helpful:

- [U.S. DOT Announcement](#)
- [LinkedIn Post From Stacy Balk](#)
- [Professional Photos](#) and [OST Photos](#)

REGISTER NOW FOR THE SEPTEMBER 18 KICKOFF OF THE U.S. DOT MAKING GOOD ON THE POTENTIAL OF THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW VIRTUAL SERIES <<<

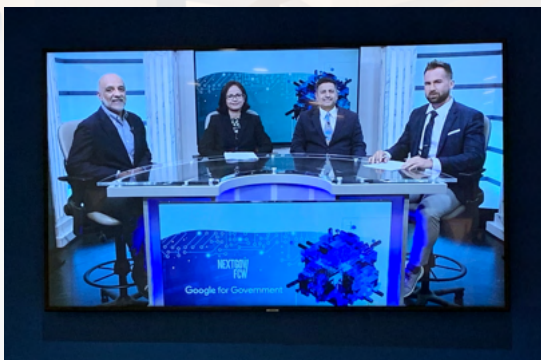
The [U.S. DOT Project Delivery Center of Excellence](#) is hosting a new virtual thought leadership series focusing on [Making Good on the Potential of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#). This three-part series will include panels of transportation thought leaders focusing on:

- Project Delivery Lessons Learned from Emergency Response Following an Infrastructure Catastrophe
- Best Practices to Get Big Infrastructure Projects off the Ground
- Project Acceleration for the Public Good.

Each speaker will discuss an illustration of an infrastructure project completed or currently underway and share best practices across a spectrum of issues. The first panel session will be held on September 18, 2024, at 1:00 pm ET. View the lineup of sessions and speakers [here](#) and be sure to register [here](#).

Additionally, please [subscribe to the Project Delivery Center of Excellence Newsletter to learn more](#).

>>> DR. KHAN SPEAKS AT "THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF AI READINESS" EVENT



Dr. Mubassira Khan, Senior Scientist for Highly Automated Systems Safety Center of Excellence (HASS COE), recently shared insights at the "Building Blocks of AI Readiness" event, hosted by *Government Executive*. As a leading expert in artificial intelligence, Dr. Khan emphasized the importance of strategic planning and robust data infrastructure to accelerate AI adoption within government agencies. Her presentation underscored how these elements are crucial for driving innovation and efficiency across public sector operations. For more information on the event or to watch the recording, visit [here](#). Users will need to register before watching the recording.



UTC CORNER

- **"The ABCs of PNT" by Dawn Zoldi Highlights Volpe's Work**

- Check out "The ABCs of PNT" by Dawn Zoldi, featuring important contributions from the Volpe Center. This article delves into the fundamentals of Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) and explores the critical work being done in this field. Read the full article [here](#).

- **Advancing CPNT and Breakthroughs in GNSS-Less Navigation**

- Karen Van Dyke, Director of PNT and Spectrum Management at U.S. DOT, recently authored an article titled **"Advancing CPNT: USDOT's Role and PNT Needs of Critical Infrastructure,"** featured in Inside GNSS. The piece highlights the critical role of the U.S. DOT in enhancing Civil Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (CPNT) capabilities, essential for the safety and security of our nation's infrastructure.
- In related news, Zak Kassas from CARMEN UTC has announced groundbreaking research results in aircraft navigation without relying on GPS, which were prominently featured in the August issue of [Inside GNSS Magazine](#) and [IEEE Spectrum](#). This research demonstrated meter-level accuracy in aircraft navigation using cellular signals, even over extensive distances on US Air Force aircraft. This innovation presents a significant advancement in mitigating the effects of GPS jamming and spoofing, which have increasingly impacted aviation worldwide. The opening column to this article was written by Karen Van Dyke, further emphasizing the importance of alternative navigation technologies.

- **Notable UTC Webinar Topics:**

- [A Conversation with Robert Hampshire, USDOT's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology: September 4 | 12PM ET](#)
- [Some Lessons Learned from the Key Bridge Collapse: September 6 | 12:30PM ET](#)
- Visit the [UTC page for all upcoming webinars](#), and the [YouTube channel](#) for all past webinars.

SMART MOVES

Innovations & Highlights from the SMART Grants Program

The SMART Team is Growing!

- The SMART Grants Program welcomes two new Grants Management Specialists, Alfreda Johnson and Raine Pike. Alfreda and Raine join Thy Nguyen on the Grants Management Team at SMART. Both Alfreda and Raine have extensive experience in the full life cycle of grants administration, project management, and finance, and bring decades of experience in municipal government and university administration to the team. Having been grant recipients themselves, as well as grants managers, they will complete the SMART team's ability to support our grant recipients and realize successful projects.

2024 SMART Summit Report

- The [2024 SMART Summit Report](#) was recently released, which includes key ideas and takeaways from each panel, presentation, and breakout discussion, as well as information on each presenter. On July 10th and 11th, 2024, U.S. DOT held its second SMART Grantee Summit at the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, MA, with over 220 participants in attendance, including U.S. DOT leadership and 83 SMART grant recipients from 39 states. [Check out the webpage](#) for more photos and details from the Summit, including links to all presentation materials.

Latest SMART Articles

- Anniston Star: [Sood, Smith attend grants administration summit \(FY23 Grantee\)](#)

IN THE MEDIA

Check out OST-R Highlights online

- National Transportation Safety Board
 - [NTSB Applauds USDOT V2X Plan](#)
- AASHTO
 - [USDOT Unveils National V2X Plan](#)
- TechSpot
 - [Driving Toward Zero: How DOT Plans to use V2X Eliminate Traffic Fatalities](#)
- TechRound
 - [How V2X Communication Can Help Reduce Urban Accidents](#)
- Transport Topics News
 - [DOT Safety Plan Promotes Wireless Communications on Roadways](#)
- NPR
 - [U.S. Presses 'Reset Button' on Technology](#)
- ANSI
 - [Department of Transportation Releases Plan to Guide Implementation of Vehicle-to-Everything Technologies](#)
- Carnegie Mellon University
 - [Transportation Experts Envision Future at DOT Summit](#)

Photo Credit: U.S. DOT

