



# OFFICE OF CORPORATE RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION MANAGEMENT

Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center

The Office of Corporate Research, Technology, and Innovation Management leads the development and coordination of a national highway research program that closes critical knowledge gaps, identifies collaboration opportunities, and accelerates innovations and technology deployments. The office's key responsibilities include providing strategic direction to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on research, executing corporate research programs, coordinating FHWA research programs, ensuring research innovations move from the laboratory to implementation, and communicating research results.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND RESEARCH PLANNING

The office oversees and performs three core functions:

- **Strategic planning:** Collaborates with the Office of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and other operating administrations to develop the *USDOT RD&T Strategic Plan*.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **Legislative and intergovernmental action:** Provides legislative analysis and support for research and technology (R&T).
- **Budget preparation and execution:** Leads the coordination and development of FHWA's *Annual Modal Research Plan*, spend plan, annual R&T budget request, and annual R&T budget delivery plan.

## RESEARCH COORDINATION

The office leverages a long history of strong partnerships and collaborations with State and Federal agencies to coordinate efforts and benefits that advance shared goals through the following:

- **Liaisons and partnerships:** Works with FHWA division offices on R&T issues related to the research portion of the State Planning and Research program,

the Transportation Research Board, and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

- **International coordination:** Takes place through the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center's (TFHRC's) associate membership with the Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories.

## RESEARCH EXECUTION

The Office of Corporate Research, Technology, and Innovation Management implements a portion of the FHWA R&T portfolio and manages the following programs:

- **Exploratory Advanced Research Program:** Matches opportunities from discoveries in science and technology with the needs of the highway transportation community, focusing on longer-term, higher-risk transformative research with high payoff potential.
- **National Research Council Research Associateship Program:** Provides postdoctoral scientists and engineers the opportunity to conduct research at FHWA that addresses transportation challenges.
- **Small Business Innovation Research Program:** Encourages domestic small businesses to engage in research and development addressing high-priority research areas within USDOT. The goal of the program is to develop and commercialize products and services that meet the needs of end users, including State departments of transportation (DOTs), local transportation agencies, and the construction industry, while advancing USDOT's strategic goals.
- **Transportation Pooled Fund Program:** Allows State DOTs and FHWA to create synergy by leveraging resources, avoiding duplication of effort, and collaborating on planning and researching projects of mutual interest.

## RESEARCH TRANSITION

The office leads the evaluation and assessment of FHWA research programs and projects and provides resources and expertise to appropriately transition technology from the laboratory to implementation. It also aims to accelerate the adoption of proven innovative practices and technologies as standard practice through the following:

- **R&T Evaluation Program:** Assesses project performance, communicates the benefits of R&T projects and programs to stakeholders, and ensures that FHWA is expending public resources efficiently and effectively.
- **Technology Transfer Program:** Provides support services for moving research from the laboratory to implementation and transfers market-ready technology to the appropriate FHWA program office, Federal agency, local or State government.
- **Research services:** Oversees the FHWA Research Library, which conducts literature searches and provides digital resources to FHWA employees.

## MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Through its marketing, communications, and outreach initiatives, the office supports FHWA's R&T program by ensuring the public and stakeholders are informed on current research through the following:

- **Publishing, marketing, and communications:** Manages and disseminates all published communications and information related to the R&T program.

- **Publications and exhibits:** Produces research-related publications, including *Public Roads* and *R&T Now*, which highlight research activities and best practices in highway transportation construction and management.<sup>(2,3)</sup>
- **Website management:** Manages the content and development of the TFHRC website in support of all FHWA R&T programs.

## REFERENCES

1. U.S. Department of Transportation. (2016). *Research, Development, and Technology Strategic Plan U.S. Department of Transportation, FY 2017–2021*, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC. Available online: <https://www.transportation.gov/administrations/assistant-secretary-research-and-technology/dot-five-year-rdt-strategic-plan>, last accessed October 23, 2020.
2. Federal Highway Administration. (2020). *Public Roads*. Federal Highway Administration, Washington, DC. Available online: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/publicroads>, last accessed October 23, 2020.
3. Federal Highway Administration. (2020). *R&T Now*. Federal Highway Administration, Washington, DC. Available online <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/rtnow>, last accessed October 23, 2020.

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