



Region II
University Transportation Research Center

2011-12 UTRC Advanced Technology Initiative
Request for Proposals

Introduction

The Region II University Transportation Research Center (UTRC) is pleased to announce the 2011-12 UTRC Advanced Technology Initiative, a competitive matching grant program for faculty-initiated projects that demonstrate or foster the implementation of new technologies in the transportation field. UTRC is seeking research proposals as outlined below. It is anticipated that awards will be announced by October 31, 2011.

Proposals will be evaluated on a competitive basis. Final awards will be subject to the governing requirements of the U.S. DOT University Transportation Centers Program and the Research Foundation of the City University of New York.

How to Apply

Proposals must be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word, .rtf, or pdf format and Budget in Microsoft Excel format, through the [UTRC Online Submission System](http://www.utrc2.org) (visit www.utrc2.org).

For more information, please contact:

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Abstracts must be submitted by April 1, 2011 and completed proposals must be submitted by April 30, 2011.

Program Objectives

The objectives of the UTRC Advanced Technology Initiative are to promote:

1. Collaboration between traditional fields of transportation expertise (e.g. civil engineering and urban planning) and academic research centers in advanced technologies (e.g. nanotechnology, photonics, wireless communication technologies).
2. Partnerships among universities, public agencies, and the private sector.
3. High-quality research on the development and demonstration of transportation applications for advanced technologies.
4. Practical and workable contributions and solutions to the region's transportation community.
5. Education of transportation students through involvement in scholarly research.
6. Involvement of junior faculty in the UTRC consortium in funded research projects.

Proposal Requirements

Each proposal must include the following elements:

1. A cover page, following the form in the Template for Technical Proposals on the UTRC website (<http://www.utrc2.org/research/resourcesforpis.php>). A lead institution and Principal Investigator (PI) should be clearly identified. The Principal Investigator must be a faculty member of a member university of the UTRC consortium.
 - Research proposals involving well-structured teams from two or more institutions are encouraged. Such proposals should be submitted as a single entry with appropriate budget.
2. An executive summary briefly describing the problem, proposed approach, and work effort.
3. The main proposal narrative, not exceeding 5,000 words, describing in more detail:
 - a. The problem being addressed, and its relevance to the region.
 - b. The research approach.
 - c. How this project relates to other work being done on this topic.
 - d. Description of deliverables the research project will produce. This must include a one- to two-page research brief summarizing the methods, findings, and significance of the research project in non-technical language, suitable for distribution to transportation agencies and policymakers.
4. Proposed tasks and timeline. Each task or subtask should be associated with a timeframe, a specific deliverable, and a percent of effort toward the total budget.

5. Listing of research obligations of key project personnel for the 2007-08 Academic Year, including both UTRC and non-UTRC projects that will be underway during that time.

6. Resumes or curricula vitae of all principals responsible for the study.

7. A budget, using the Template for Faculty Initiated Proposals – Budget Tables, on the UTRC website (<http://www.utrc2.org/research/resourcesforpis.php>):

- Each proposal must include a detailed estimate of the time and cost to perform the work, including the billing rate for each person.
- Proposals should include funding for one graduate student researcher; higher levels of student support may be requested but must be justified in the proposal.
- Proposals should include funding to present research findings at one academic or professional meeting.
- No faculty member can receive funding from UTRC exceeding 50% of his/her academic year's time.
- UTRC's financial contribution must not exceed \$50,000 and should be fully matched with a non-federal source of funds. Eligible sources of matching funds include hard or in-kind sources of funds from state or local transportation agencies; foundations, business, or civic organizations; or faculty release time or student stipends provided by the university. Sources of matching funds must be documented on a letterhead of the sponsor agency. Proposals that are not able to identify sufficient matching funds are still eligible for consideration in this program. Proposals will be circulated to potential funding agencies.

Selection Process

Proposals will be reviewed by an ad hoc committee of researchers at other transportation centers, and by practicing professionals at agencies/industries within USDOT Region II. They will score proposals according to following criteria:

1. Quality of technical concepts and research plan.
2. Qualifications of Principal Investigator(s) and other technical personnel.
3. Degree of innovation.
4. Feasibility of project schedule and adequacy of proposed work plan.
5. Relevance to transportation problems in Region II and UTRC's theme of "Planning and Managing Regional Transportation Systems in a Changing World."

The UTRC Director and Executive Committee will consider the ad hoc committee's rankings in making the final selection of projects. In addition to the considerations listed above, special consideration will be given to projects that:

- Utilize UTRC's limited resources efficiently
- Are led by junior faculty members
- Involve graduate or undergraduate students

Proposals will be sent to outside reviewers shortly after the closing date, with reviews due at UTRC approximately 45 days later. The ad hoc review committee then will consider the reviews and rank the proposals. The UTRC Executive Committee will meet to select projects for funding or partial funding and to make other budget recommendations.

UTRC staff will review all budgets for compliance with UTRC rules and will inform all PIs of the status of their proposals after submission.

Other Research Policies

Researchers are expected to acknowledge the support provided by the UTRC in all presentations and publications resulting from the research. UTRC will not knowingly support research that is being funded or proposed for funding in whole or in part by other agencies or organizations without a specific agreement for joint funding. Failure to disclose other proposed or in-hand research funding for a project substantially similar to a UTRC project is grounds for termination of a UTRC grant.

Graduate student contributions to research projects must be acknowledged in any publication resulting from research using UTRC funds. Acknowledgment may be by footnote or by co-authorship of reports and articles, depending upon the nature and extent of student contributions.