



University Transportation Research Center  
RFP Cover Sheet

**Title:** Impacts of the Rail Grant Program  
Proposal Number: 2011-11  
Sponsor: NJDOT  
Date Issued: August 9, 2010  
Pre-Proposal Meeting: TBD  
RFP Due at NJDOT: by September 22, 2010  
**RFP Closing Date: September 22, 2010**

If you plan to apply:

1. Please contact Camille Crichton-Sumners (camille.crichton-sumners@dot.state.nj.us) or Stephanie Nock (609-530-5637 or STEPHANIE.NOCK@dot.state.nj.us) to request a pre-proposal meeting, and so that you will receive information about this meeting if it is held. *This meeting will be your only opportunity to ask questions about this proposal.*

2. If you plan to submit a proposal through UTRC, please notify us by email at peickemeyer@utrc2.org and ckamga@utrc2.org. Please indicate whether you are open to teaming up with faculty at other universities on this project.

Proposal submission guidelines:

Please contact Penny Eickemeyer (peickemeyer@utrc2.org, 212-650-8074) to discuss submission logistics. After UTRC confirms that the proposals' budgets meet UTRC and NJDOT guidelines, please use the UTRC cover sheet available at <http://www.utrc2.org/research/resourcesforpis.php> for submission of printed proposals to NJDOT.

Proposals must be prepared in accordance with NJDOT's Information and Instructions for Preparing Proposals. Please visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/refdata/research/pdf/techpropresproj.pdf>

For questions about budget preparation, contact: Camille Kamga, ckamga@utrc2.org

NJDOT has not specified a budget or timeline for this project. Please note that matching funds up to \$35,000 are available from UTRC for this RFP.

New Jersey Department of Transportation  
Bureau of Research  
**RESEARCH PROJECT**  
**Request for Proposals**  
**2011 Program**

**Date of RFP**  
**8/9/2010**

**Closing Date**  
**9/22/2010**

**Impacts of the Rail Grant Program**

**Project No. 2011-11**

(Proposals must be prepared in accordance with NJDOT's *Information and Instructions for Preparing Proposals*. Please visit:

<http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/refdata/research/pdf/techpropresproj.pdf>

*Revised Proposal Evaluation Forms are available for your information on the website.*)

Proposals will be based on the merit of the information contained in the proposal. Budgets will be evaluated separately. Please place three (3) copies of the budget for this project in a separate sealed envelope.

**1. RESEARCH PROBLEM STATEMENT, BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

The Bureau of Rail Services has issued grants to railroads since 2002. The goal of these grants is to increase railroad use and to promote economic development. However, the Bureau has never analyzed the outcomes. We would like to have the research contractor develop a methodology to assess the impact of the grant program. The research should address the following questions: Have the railroads achieved their stated goals?; Were any particular types of improvements more successful than others (sidings, operational improvements, track rehab, etc.)?; and, Can we identify/ develop other metrics which may be used to improve the performance of the program?

**2. TASKS**

[Provide a listing of appropriate general tasks divided into phases based on types of work (e.g., laboratory, field) or by year (e.g., year 1, year 2) or other appropriate milestones]

*The NJDOT is seeking the insight of proposal responders on how best to achieve the research objectives. Proposers are expected to describe a research effort that can realistically be accomplished as expeditiously as possible. Proposals must present the proposers' current thinking in sufficient detail to demonstrate their understanding of the problem and the soundness of their approach for conducting the required research.*

**PHASE I – Literature Search**

Conduct a literature search of the current state of the practice.

After the award of the project, a more comprehensive literature search should be conducted.

At the completion of this literature search, the PI will make a presentation to the Research Project Selection and Implementation Panel to discuss their findings and to discuss the appropriate research approach.

**PHASE II – Research Approach and Anticipated Results**

Provide a clear description of how you will solve the problem and implement anticipated findings. Work may be divided into phases (e.g., Laboratory, Field or Year 1, Year 2) as necessary to clarify tasks. *Exit Criteria* must be developed during this phase.

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION AND TRAINING PLAN

The PI must meet with the Research Project Selection and Implementation Panel (RPSIP) and other NJDOT units to present the findings and as appropriate train these personnel in the use the project results.

**The PI will develop an implementation plan as per the guidelines provided by NJDOT Research Bureau.**

### 4. DELIVERABLES:

[List of minimum deliverables necessary to complete the project]

- Presentation of Summary of Literature Search Results
- Discussion to Support and Refine the Project Tasks
- Project work plan.
- Technical Memorandum on the survey results
- Technical memorandum on the measures that are working or not working
- Technical memorandum on actions taken
- Interim Status reports suitable for Senior Leadership if required
- Quarterly Reports and Final report, in color, with appropriate tables, graphs and charts in hard copy version, PDF file format, Word, and on CD ROM. Two copies plus one per RSIP member of each presentation, technical memorandum, draft final report and Final Report (plus 10 copies). The Final Report and Tech Brief are due three (3) months before the end date of the project to allow time for review by the Research Project Selection and Implementation Panel. Final Acceptance will be granted upon receipt of ten copies of the approved final report.

### 5. CONTRACT TIME:

The PI must provide the anticipated research study duration based on the proposed tasks. Consideration should be given to potential impediments so that adjustments are incorporated into the schedule minimizing the need for time extensions. However, 6 - 12 months may be preferable for the customer.

### 6. CONTACTS:

A meeting may be scheduled with interested parties after the RFP's are distributed to refine the objectives and deliverables and to promote a better understanding of the research needs. Questions on this topic **shall not** be directed to any Research Project Manager, Research Customer, or any other NJDOT person. All questions and answers shall be addressed **through email or if requested, at the pre-proposal meeting**. Contact Camille Crichton-Summers ([Camille.CrichtonSummers@dot.state.nj.us](mailto:Camille.CrichtonSummers@dot.state.nj.us)) on or before August 25, 2010 if you would like to request a pre-proposal meeting.

### 7. DEADLINE

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proposals (10 single-bound copies) are due at the NJDOT Bureau of Research No later than 5:00 p.m. 9/22/2010</b></p>
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**Authorization to Begin Work: 1/3/2011--** estimated or as negotiated

**8. DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS:**

**For private, paid messenger services such as Federal Express, DHL, UPS, etc., or for hand-carried deliveries:**

2011 PROPOSAL-NJDOT  
New Jersey Department of Transportation  
Bureau of Research  
1035 Parkway Avenue  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600

**For U.S. Postal Service mail:**

New Jersey Department of Transportation  
ATTN: Camille Crichton-Summers  
Manager, Bureau of Research  
PO Box 600  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600