



Region II

University Transportation Research Center

Camille Kamga, Ph.D., Acting Director

2010-11 UTRC Research Initiative

Request for Proposals (*Released: February 3, 2010*)

Introduction

The Region II University Transportation Research Center (UTRC) is pleased to announce the 2010-11 UTRC Research Initiative competitive matching grant programs for faculty-initiated projects. UTRC is seeking research proposals as outlined below. It is anticipated that awards will be announced by October 31, 2010.

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 9, 2010 and completed proposals must be submitted by April 30, 2010.

Program Objectives

The objectives of the UTRC Research Initiative are to:

1. Promote excellent and innovative research projects on transportation problems relevant to U.S. DOT's Region II (including New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands).
2. Encourage multi-disciplinary and multi-university approaches to research on these problems.
3. Provide practical and workable contributions and solutions to the region's transportation community.
4. Further the education of transportation students by involving them in scholarly research.
5. Encourage junior faculty in the UTRC consortium to compete for research funds.

The objectives of the UTRC Advanced Technology Initiative are to:

1. Promote high-quality research on the development, demonstration, or implementation of advanced technologies in the transportation field.
2. Promote 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).
3. Encourage partnerships among universities, public agencies, and the private sector.
4. Provide practical and workable contributions and solutions to the region's transportation community.
5. Further the education of transportation students by involving them in scholarly research.
6. Encourage junior faculty in the UTRC consortium to compete for research funds.

Proposal Requirements

Proposals on all transportation topics of relevance to USDOT Region II are eligible for this program. Each submission 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 in 400 words or fewer.
 3. The main proposal narrative, not exceeding 4,000 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 2009-10 Academic Year, including both UTRC and non-UTRC projects that will be underway during that time.
 6. Brief curricula vitae of all principals responsible for the study (not to exceed two pages each).
 7. A budget, using the Template for Faculty Initiated Proposals – Budget Tables, on the UTRC website (<http://www.utrc2.org/research/assets/budget-Template-RI.xls>):
 - 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:

- A. Originality and timeliness of topic.
- B. Quality, clarity, and feasibility of research plan.
- C. Validity of data and research methods.
- D. Likelihood of producing useful information and insights.
- E. Qualifications of Principal Investigator(s)
- F. Relevance to needs and 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.