



Who We Are

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Research Programs serve

to discover, develop, and extend knowledge and products needed to operate, maintain, and improve the statewide multi-modal transportation system. MDT conducts research in line with MDT's mission to serve the public by supporting a transportation system and services that emphasize quality, safety, cost effectiveness, economic vitality, and sensitivity to the environment.

How We Are Funded

Federal fuel tax monies made available to the State of Montana under Title 23, U.S.C., with appropriate state matching funds, are currently the main source of funding for the MDT Research Programs. Since Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991, 2% of the total annual transportation disbursement has been allocated to each state for State Planning and Research (SPR) activities with a minimum of 25% of these funds reserved for state transportation research, development, and technology transfer (RDT) efforts. Additional funds (typically project-specific grants or university matching funds) are provided through universities, FHWA, and other USDOT Administrations; these amounts vary on an annual basis. Current annual SPR funds are about \$2.4 M.

What We Do

MDT's Research Programs consists of three programs.

Research Projects - The projects conducted under this applied contract research program solve MDT's transportation problems and improve efficiency and effectiveness of operational activities. Projects can be initiated in a number of ways: annual solicitation, Montana Partnership for the Advancement of Research in Transportation (MPART) small projects agreements, partnering projects, and MDT Administration high priority requests.

Experimental Projects - The projects conducted under this applied in-house research program are conducted in conjunction with construction or maintenance projects to evaluate various materials and methods. Construction or maintenance funds pay for the installation of the experimental feature, which is then evaluated for performance and implementation potential by Research staff.

Technology Transfer - This program involves the sharing of information with MDT staff and the transportation community as a whole through reports, both MDT's and those from other agencies; library and library services; surveys; Research newsletter; presentations; literature searches; and the Research web site. The Montana Local Technical Assistance

Program (LTAP) is also managed by MDT Research staff.

Staff

MDT's Research staff is a small team consisting of the Research Programs Manager, two project managers, and a librarian.

Links

[Research Web Site Home Page](#)

[Research Project Solicitation](#)

[State of Montana RFPs](#)

Contact Information

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