



MAP-21 Reauthorization Proposal



University Transportation Centers A History

The national University Transportation Center (UTC) program began informally in the 1970s. The Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987 formally authorized the establishment and operation of the first ten transportation centers, one in each of the 10 standard federal regions. The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) reauthorized the UTCs for an additional six years and added four national centers and six University Research Institutes.

Subsequent surface transportation bills, TEA-21 and SAFETEA-LU, reauthorized the UTC Program and continued to expand the program. These bills also began to incorporate competition into the selection of UTCs, a process that RETRC supports.

In 2012, Congress passed MAP-21, which included a reauthorization of the UTC program for \$72.5 million/year for FY 2013 and FY 2014. In 2013, USDOT held an open competition to determine National Centers, Regional Centers and Tier 1 Centers.

RETRC is composed of 22 universities, which work with over 100 different universities spread across 42 states making it a truly national organization

University Transportation Centers (UTCs) are where innovation begins. It is where we are training a transportation workforce for the 21st century. It is where projects are designed better, constructed faster and where our transportation system is made safer.

UTCs have used the \$72.5 million/year authorized by MAP-21 to leverage additional funds from private, state, and local sources to conduct research, train the workforce of tomorrow and produce studies that make our transportation safer, more efficient, and more secure.

Fast Facts about University Transportation Centers

- MAP-21 authorized \$72.5 million/year for university transportation centers (UTCs)
- There are 35 UTCs:
 - 5 national transportation centers
 - 10 regional UTCs
 - 20 tier 1 UTCs
- Each UTC has a specific strategic goal and nearly all UTCs partner with other universities through the establishment of consortia
 - 120 Universities across the nation participate in the University Transportation Center program through these consortia

Reauthorization Requests

- Fully reauthorize the University Transportation Center program providing for increases consistent with program growth and keep the program in the Highway Trust Fund.
 - Specifically, we request that no less than \$92.5 million/year be authorized from the Highway Trust Fund for the UTC program.
- Expand transportation research funding overall, as it is an integral part of the Highway Trust Fund.

