Idaho Transportation Department Research Program

❖ **Who We Are**

The Idaho Transportation Department’s (ITD) Research Program is located within the Division of Highways Construction and Operations. The program coordinates and supports research, development and technology transfer activities addressing ITD’s strategic goals and initiatives. The Research Program enhances ITD’s ability to deliver efficient and effective transportation services by offering practical solutions to problems facing the Department. Through development and implementation of new tools, technologies and practices, the Research Program is supporting ITD’s mission to be the best.

❖ **How We Are Funded**

ITD’s Research Program is funded primarily with federal State Planning and Research (SPR) dollars and the required state matching funds. State dedicated funds are used to supplement SPR funding as needed for projects.

For FY22, the Research Program budget totals approximately $1.73 million. Program funding is allocated as illustrated below.

❖ **What We Do**

ITD’s Research Program oversees research, development and technology transfer efforts supported with SPR funds. This work includes:

- Identifying department research needs and priorities
- Research project selection
- Research contract development and management
- Monitoring program finances
- Coordinating with ITD staff responsible for research project management.

The Research Program also coordinates ITD’s involvement in national and regional transportation research efforts including:

- Multi-state “pooled fund” studies in which the department and other state DOTs share resources to address common research needs
- National research programs, like the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP)
- The regional university transportation center that serves the Pacific Northwest.
Program staff regularly distributes information about new research reports, upcoming webinars and planned conferences, and survey requests to department staff.

The Research Program Manager also oversees the broader SPR Program, compiling SPR funding requests, working with agency management to set funding priorities, coordinating the development of ITD’s annual SPR work program, obligating funds and monitoring program finances, and compiling an annual report of agency accomplishments supported by SPR funds. In addition, the Research Program Manager serves on the department’s Innovative Business Practices team, which coordinates ITD’s innovation initiative, and is involved in Idaho’s State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC).

❖ Staff

ITD’s Research Program is overseen by a full-time Research Program Manager and a Sr. Research Analyst.

The department’s Research Advisory Council (RAC) reviews research and pooled fund requests submitted by department staff and sets project funding priorities. The council includes members of the department’s Executive Team and representatives from various department divisions/districts.

ITD staff members from a variety of program areas and districts serve as research project sponsors, project managers and technical advisory committee members. These individuals are responsible for overseeing research projects supported by the program and for facilitating implementation of research results.

❖ External Partners

Program staff works closely with the FHWA’s Idaho Division Office. The Research Program Manager meets with the FHWA-Idaho Division Office’s key research contact on a monthly basis. In addition, FHWA staff members serve on the Research Advisory Council and as advisors for each research project.

ITD’s Research Program contracts with universities in Idaho and in other states as well as with private consultants for needed research services.

Program staff works collaboratively with other state DOTs and is actively involved in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials’ Research Advisory Committee.

❖ Contact Information

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