

Idaho Transportation Department Research Program

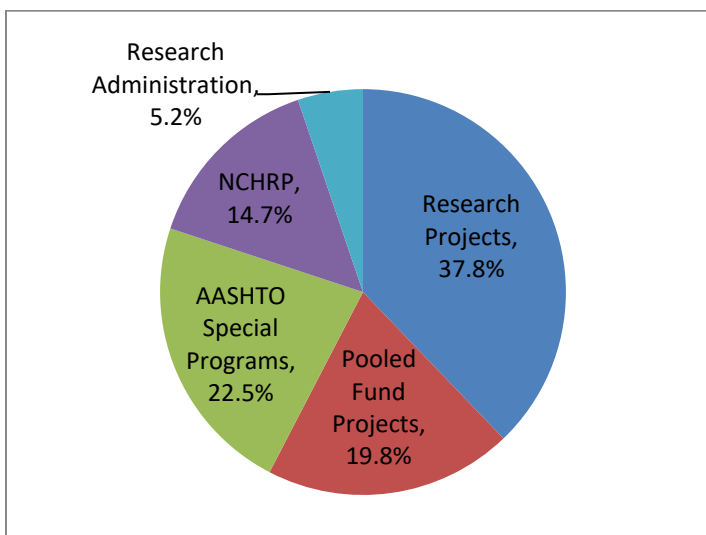
❖ Who We Are

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 quest 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 FY20, the Research Program budget totals approximately \$2.34 million. Program funding is allocated as illustrated below.



*Idaho
Transportation
Department
Headquarters
Building
Boise, Idaho*

❖ 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
- Project selection
- 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)
- PacTrans, a collaborative 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 with 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.

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 FHWA-Idaho's key research contact on a bi-monthly basis. In addition, FHWA staff members serve on the Research Advisory Council and as advisors for each research project.

ITD's Research Program also has formal partnerships with Boise State University, Idaho State University, and the University of Idaho with its National Institute for Advanced Transportation Technologies (NIATT). Much of the research supported through ITD's Research Program is done by faculty and students at these

universities. We also contract with universities in other states and with private consultants when appropriate.

Program staff works collaboratively with other state DOTs, and is actively involved in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' Special Committee on Research and Innovation and the Research Advisory Committee. ITD's Director, Brian Ness, currently serves as the Chairman of the Special Committee on Research and Innovation and is a member of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Executive Committee.

❖ Contact Information

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<http://itd.idaho.gov/alt-programs/?target=research-program>



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