Title:	Synthesis: Prevention of Unauthorized Freeway Exits and Entrances
The Problem:	A major safety concern across the state of Texas is drivers using unauthorized entrances and exits from and onto adjacent roadways. Rather than waiting to take the next exit to leave the freeway, many drivers choose to drive across the shoulder area to the frontage road for quick egress. Drivers use unauthorized entrances to enter a freeway in areas that are most convenient to them. This creates several safety hazards, including ignoring other vehicles exiting or entering the freeway at unauthorized locations, speed differentials, paths created that might encourage other travelers to exit or enter in the same unsafe location, and damage to the shoulder area structures.
Technical Objectives:	The objectives of this synthesis project are: • Conduct a literature review and summarize state-of-the practice and key findings. • Conduct nationwide survey of other DOTs, municipalities, and transportation agencies of deterrent options, both deterrent type and maintenance requirements and costs. • Conduct survey of individual TxDOT districts to assess magnitude of unauthorized exits and entrances statewide. • Assess unauthorized exits and entrances and evaluate causes, adjacent land uses, spacing of current entrances and exits. • Perform an evaluation of available deterrents and their safety performance to determine which are most effective in preventing unauthorized exits and entrances. • Outline a recommended plan towards implementation of various options on TxDOT roadways, including but not limited to minimum spacing requirements, standard practices, and options for different types of roadways. The expected technology readiness level (TRL) for this project is 3.
Anticipated Deliverables:	1. Technical memorandum for each task completed. 2. Monthly progress reports. 3. Project Summary Report 4. Research report documenting the findings of this research, including: • Strategies and methods of closing off unauthorized exits and entrances. • Evaluation of available deterrents. • Implementation recommendations.
Proposal Requirements:	1. The project duration shall not exceed 12 months. 2. The project budget shall not exceed $65,000.00. 3. RFP#1 Q&A Deadline: 12:00 p.m. Central Time, **Tuesday, February 20, 2024.** 4. Proposal Deadline: 12:00 p.m. Central Time, **Thursday, March 21, 2024**. 5. Use the current "ProjAgre" and "PA Forms" templates located at the RTI Forms webpage. 6. Proposals will be considered non-responsive and will not be accepted for technical evaluation if they are not received by the deadline or do not meet the requirements stated in RTI's University Handbook. 7. Proposals should be submitted by the University Liaison in PDF format; (1) PDF file per proposal. File name should include project name and university abbreviation. 8. This project will be tracked during the life of the project using the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) scale. 9. The 2021 Texas Legislative Session requires that universities be in compliance with Senate Bill 475 by submitting a completed and signed TxDOT Security Questionnaire (TSQ) to RTIMAIN@txdot.gov. Universities that have not submitted a completed and signed TSQ one week after award will be considered non-compliant and unable to participate in the Program.