

A banner featuring a central image of a bundle of glowing orange and yellow fiber optic cables fanning out from a blue cable on the left and right. The background is a solid red color.

TxDOT ROW

UTILITY WEEK

Partners in Coordination

Research and Technology Implementation Division (RTI)

**Day 3 – December 4th
Track Rm 1, Session 3
3:30PM - 4:15PM**

Presenter: Darrin Jensen



Darrin Jensen is a Senior Research Project Manager for the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) Research and Technology Implementation Division. In his current role, he is leading TxDOT research projects on intelligent transportation systems, structures and hydraulics, pavement and materials, maintenance, and traffic safety. In 2016, Darrin received the Mac Shelby Award from the University of Texas, Austin for his exceptional leadership and dedication to research. Darrin earned a BBA and an MS in project management from St. Edward's University and brings over two decades of project management experience to TxDOT. Since 2010, Darrin continues to serve as an adjunct faculty member for St. Edward's University, where he teaches project management courses at the Bill Munday School of Business and the School of Behavior and Social Sciences to both undergraduate and graduate students.



Utility Week - 2024

Research and Technology Implementation Division



April 18, 2025

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Research Program Overview

What is RTI's primary function?



Research Program Overview

Who does RTI work with?

State-Supported Universities
Center for Transportation Research (UT Austin)
Texas Transportation Institute (Texas A&M)
University of Texas Arlington
Texas State University
University of Texas El Paso
Texas Tech University
University of Texas San Antonio



Research Program Overview

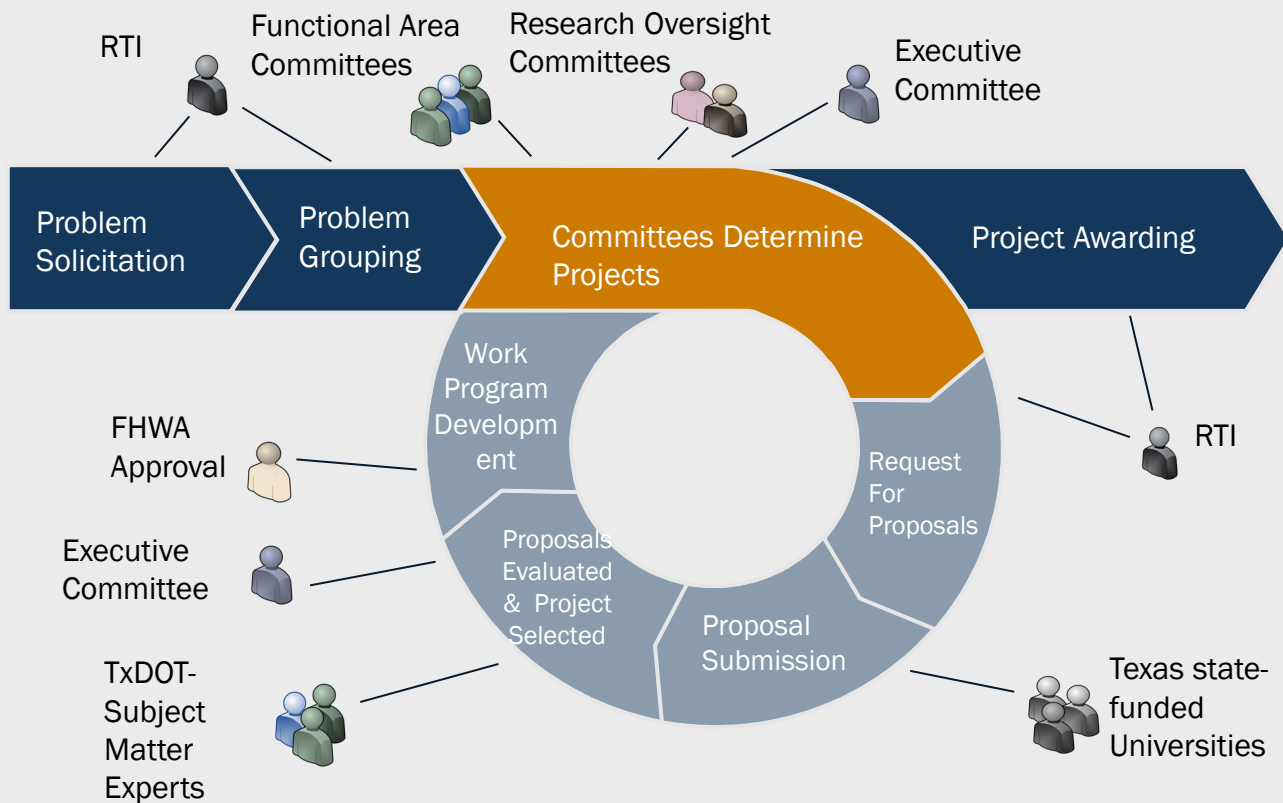
How is RTI Funded?

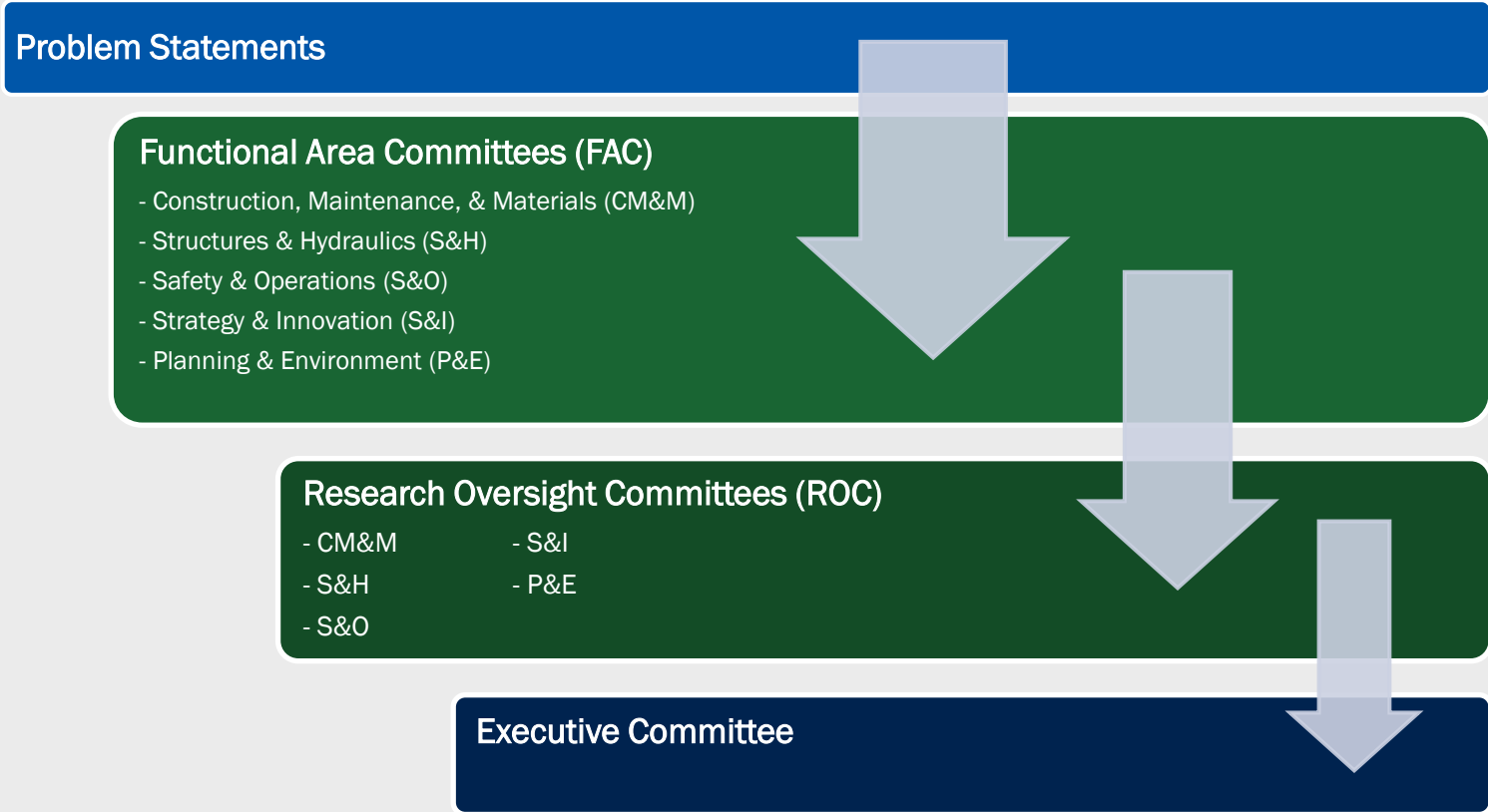
Program	SPR	Total Funding Obligated (FY23)
Research Program	SPR 0511 (223)	\$25,256,050.44
Implementation Program	SPR 2023 (152)	\$1,936,237.32
Innovation Program	SPR 2023 (153)	\$2,244,682.00
Total		\$29,436,969.76

Research Program Overview

RTI National Exposure

Program	SPR Contribution
Pooled-fund Projects	\$2,601,134.00
National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP)	\$5,441,252.00
Transportation Research Board (TRB)	\$667,299.00





Research Program Overview

Functional Area Committee Budget

Functional Area	Budget
Construction, Maintenance & Materials	\$6,507,960.24
Planning and Environmental	\$3,241,322.09
Safety and Operations	\$6,415,204.47
Structures and Hydraulics	\$8,725,539.32
Strategy and Innovation	\$4,164,340.63



Other RTI Responsibilities

- Product Evaluation
- Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)





New Product Evaluation Program



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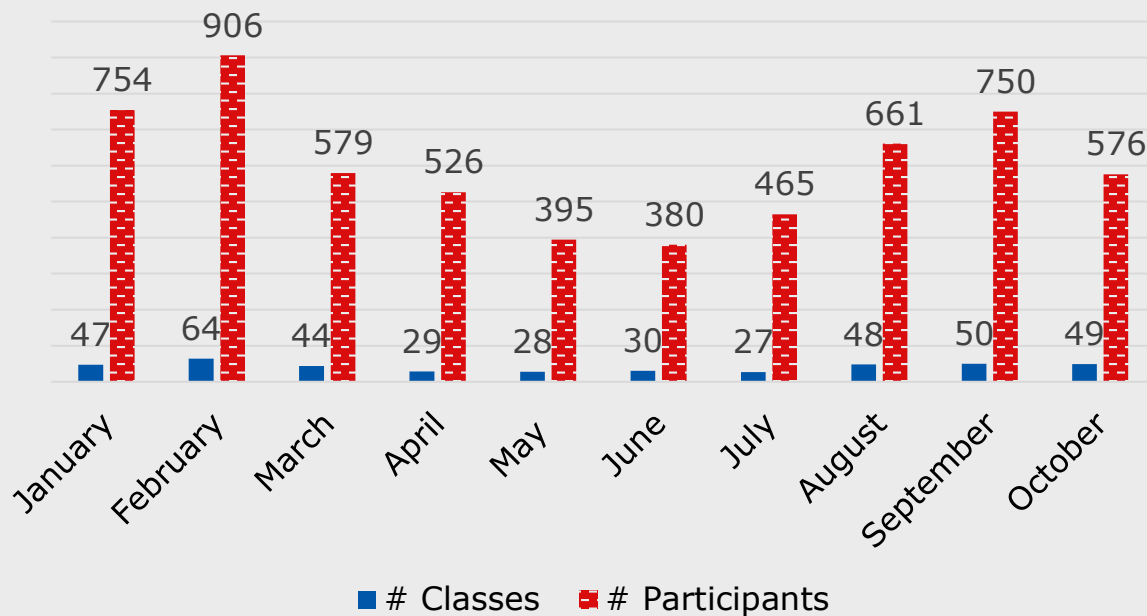


Local Technical Assistance Program



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LTAP Courses 2024



LTAP Contract and Updates

FY 2024 Achievements

- New courses
- Increased outreach
- Equipment purchase
- Course Audits
- Advisory Board Meeting

FY 2025 Goals

- Improved metrics
- Expand video offerings
- Equipment Roadshow
- Road Safety Champion Program



-TxLTAP- New Courses

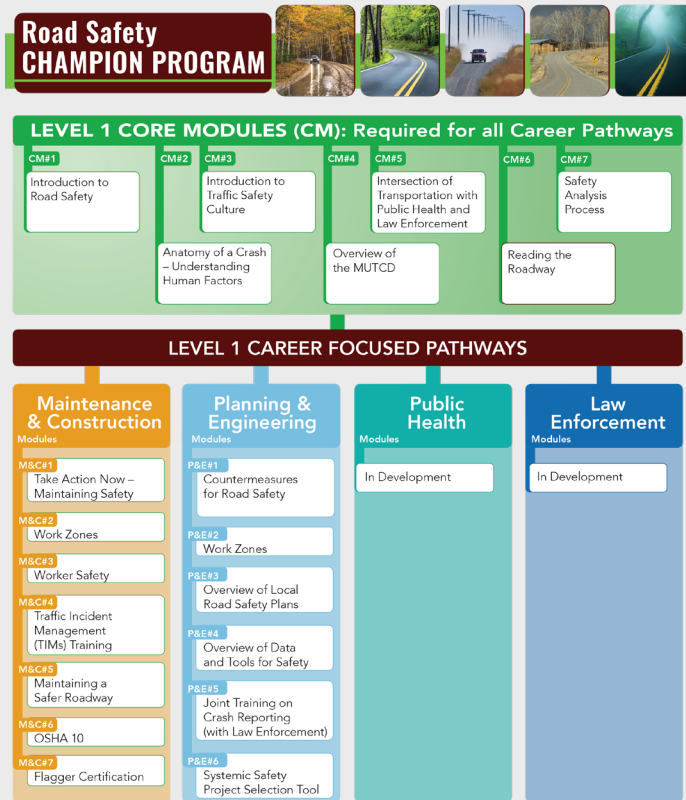
- Entry Level Driver Training Knowledge
- Entry Level Driver Training Train the Trainer
- How to Attract and Retain Public Works Employees Workshop
- Installation and Maintenance of Metal Beam Guard Fence and End Treatments
- Work Zone Traffic Control & Qualified Flagger – in Spanish



Road Safety Champion Program

The Road Safety Champion Program (RSCP) is a nationally recognized certificate program designed to build a knowledgeable, safety minded workforce, responsible for operating, maintaining, and designing local roads.

- Coordination and curriculum exchange with other LTAPs
- Proposal received
- Survey to local agencies
- Launch in FY 25



RTI and Utilities



Circle back

RTI and Utilities


- 0-7159 - Develop Guidelines for the Use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UASs) and Smartphones for Construction and Utility Inspections
- 0-7176 - Develop and Updated Methodology for Calculation of Reimbursement Levels for Utility Relocations





How to get involved?

- Send us your ideas:




Research Problem Statement

Form ProbStat
(Rev. 12/22)
Page 1 of 1

Asterisks (*) indicate required fields.

Functional Area (Select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction, Maintenance, and Materials <input type="checkbox"/> Safety & Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy & Innovation <input type="checkbox"/> Structures & Hydraulics <input type="checkbox"/> Planning & Environmental
Title	
Problem/ Research Need	Define or provide a brief description of the problem or research need. <div></div>
Proposed Work	What work will be performed? What will be accomplished? <div></div>



Research Problem Statement

Form ProbStat
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Page 1 of 1

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Title	
Problem/ Research Need	Define or provide a brief description of the problem or research need. <div></div>
Proposed Work	What work will be performed? What will be accomplished? <div></div>
Deliverables	List the deliverables to be submitted (Technical Memorandum and Reports are required), and briefly describe the products, processes, equipment that will be created, vetted, and fully explained through this research. <div></div>
Expected Benefits	What benefits would this project deliver, and how would the results be used within TxDOT (District & Division)? <div></div>
Other Research	<input type="checkbox"/> The Problem Statement has been vetted through TRB's RP , TRB , and the TxDOT Research Library . What research projects, have been reviewed? Describe related research, completed or ongoing, IACs, and engineering contracts, with TxDOT or other funding agencies and how the proposed work differs or complements these efforts. <div></div>
TxDOT Champion	<input type="checkbox"/> The listed TxDOT Champion has been contacted and his/her support can be verified. *Name: <div></div> *Email: <div></div>
Primary Author of this Project Statement:	*Name: <div></div> *Email: <div></div>

[How to Submit](#) [Submit by Email](#)



Video Summary Report



Questions?



HELP

#EndTheStreakTX

End the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways.

TxDOT.gov

#EndTheStreakTX Toolkit





Thank You!