



NATIONAL CENTER for
TRANSIT RESEARCH

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What is the University Transportation Center Program and NCTR?

- The UTC program was created by Congress in 1987 to provide grants to universities to fund transportation research and technology transfer, and help develop new talent
- NCTR is a Tier I federally funded University Transportation Center led by USF and housed at the CUTR at USF
- Our theme is to make public transportation and alternative forms of transportation safe, efficient, effective, desirable, and secure

Brief history of NCTR

- USF received its first UTC grant in 1991 through a Congressional earmark.
- Public transit and alternative forms of transportation has been the focus since 1991
- There are no more earmarks and all grants must be earned through competition (2002, 2006, 2010, 2013, ?)

Most Recent Competition & Themes

- There was competition in three categories of UTCs – 5 National (\$3.0 M), 10 Regional (\$2.75 M), and 20 Tier I (\$1.5 M) centers
- All applicants needed to apply with themes in one of five subject categories:
 1. Safety
 2. State of Good Repair
 3. Economic Competitiveness
 4. Livable Communities
 5. Environmental Sustainability

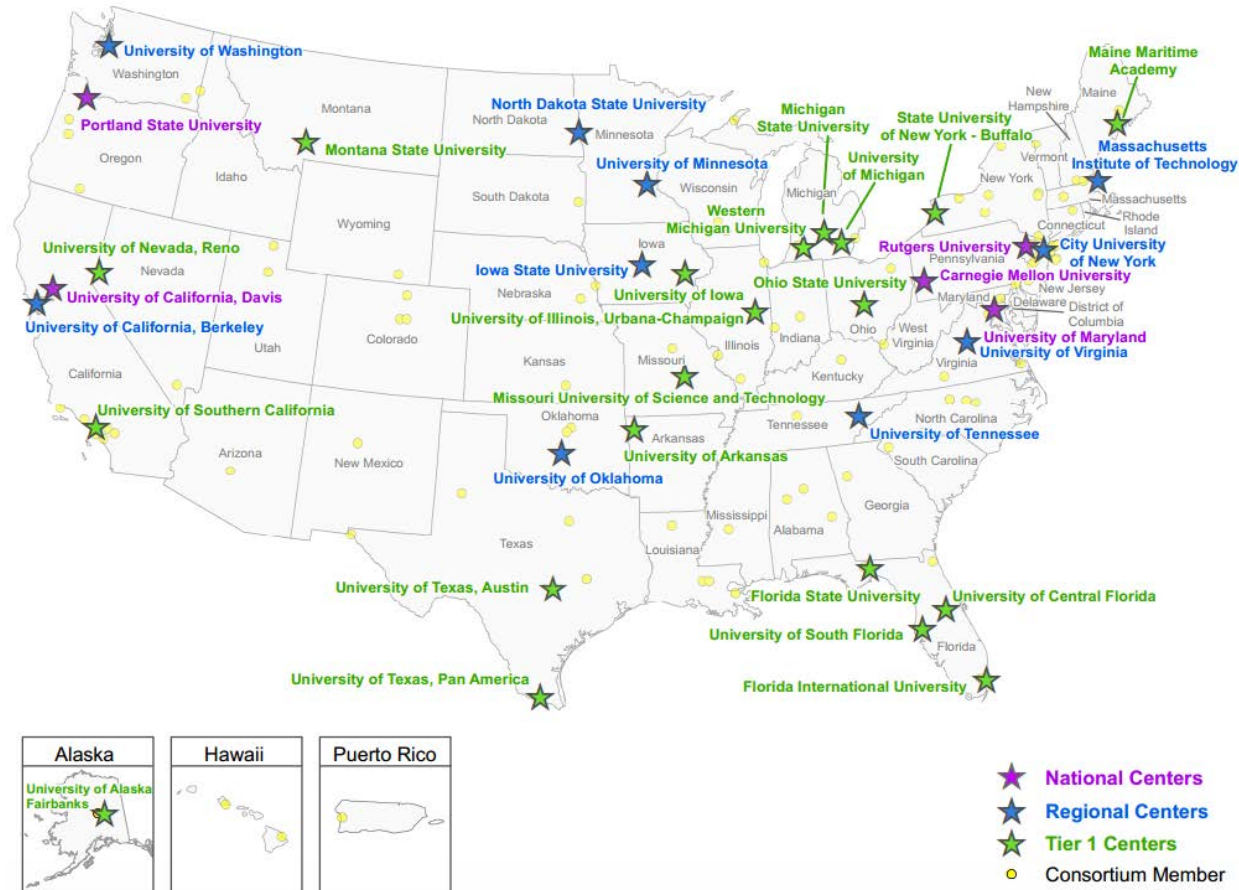
Results of Competition

- 147 applications for the 35 UTC slots
- NCTR applied and was selected for a Tier I Livable Communities UTC
 - Grant of \$1.4 M for each of two years of MAP 21 (plus extensions)
 - 50% match requirement

NCTR has an Advisory Board made up of transit directors, FDOT reps, APTA, FTA, MPOs, ACT, and TRB

Website: www.nctr.usf.edu

Locations of University Transportation Centers in the US



Who are the current members of the NCTR consortium(s)?

- University of South Florida 
- North Dakota State University 
- University of Illinois – Chicago 
- Florida International University 
- Texas Transportation Institute 
- Website: www.nctr.usf.edu

Examples of Projects

- Evaluating the State of Mobility Management and Human Service Transportation Coordination (customer perspective)
- Cost-Benefit Analysis of Rural and Small Urban Transit
- Development of Training Manuals for Transit Planning and Scheduling
- The Challenges to Creating Transit Value Capture
- Adapting Transit to Climate Change Impacts
- Analysis of Transit Contracting Models and Proper Incentives for Long-term Success
- Bus Operator Safety Critical Issues Examination and Model Practices

Results of Research

- Helped identify ways to make transit safer, more efficient, and more attractive
- Developed models that allow DOTs and regional planning agencies to determine the most effective ways to reduce congestion and pollution through TDM measures
- Provided seed funding for BRT research that helped lead to the establishment of the National Bus Rapid Transit Institute
- Funded research that has helped result in 14 software patents
- Results have been shared through over 550 presentations at professional conferences plus webinars

Other funded ongoing activities

- The Telework and Transportation Demand Management Clearinghouse
- The GIS in Transit website and biannual conference
- The Transit Safety Research and Technical Assistance Center
- The Advanced Alternative Energy Portal
- The Journal of Public Transportation
- NCTR Scholars program

Other results from the competition

- USF also partnered with three other successful applicants for national or regional UTCs:
- Portland State University (National - Livable Communities)
- Rutgers University (National - State of Good Repair)
- University of Tennessee (Regional - Safety)

Going Forward

- MAP 21 was extended to May 2015 and needs to be reauthorized soon
- The next authorization is expected ?, and the next competition is expected sometime in 2016.
- Visit our website: www.nctr.usf.edu