

EMERGING LEADER SEED GRANT PROGRAM

Request for Proposals

The Mineta Transportation Institute's (MTI) Emerging Leader Seed Grant Program seeks to engage and develop leadership capacity among junior faculty. This program supports faculty in the first five years of an academic position who are interested in exploring transportation research problems aligned with MTI's research goals and objectives.

Submittal Deadline: Open until annual funds are exhausted

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All research must focus on improving the mobility of people and goods. Proposals should describe how the research will achieve MTI's goals and objectives and respond to the US DOT's research priorities as stated below.

Goal: Lead the nation in research that identifies safe, reliable transportation solutions that increase mobility of people and goods and strengthen the nation's economy

- **Objective 1:** Leverage new technologies and innovative processes to achieve a seamless, multimodal surface transportation system that integrates with other "smart city" investments.
- **Objective 2:** Create a safer, more reliable, and more resilient surface transportation system that improves equity through increased access to jobs, housing, services, and other opportunities.
- **Objective 3:** Reduce the impact of transportation on climate change by identifying feasible alternative modes and fuels and effective ways to reduce vehicle miles traveled.
- **Objective 4:** Extend surface transportation access to people of all abilities and socioeconomic levels, connecting people to where they live, work, and play.
- **Objective 5:** Optimize passenger and freight movements to improve mobility of people and goods through development of more accurate data models and advanced application of analytical tools.

Within the broad category of *improving mobility of people and goods*, the US Department of Transportation has identified the following priorities:

- Increase access to opportunities that promote equity in connecting regions and communities, including urban and rural communities;
- Smart cities;
- Innovations to improve multi-modal connections, system integration, and security;

- Assistive technologies for those with physical or cognitive disabilities;
- Data modeling and analytical tools to optimize passenger and freight movements;
- Innovations in multi-modal planning and modeling for high-growth regions;
- Novel (non-traditional or alternative) modes of transport and shared use of infrastructure; and
- Regional planning and setting of transportation priorities.

To comply with federal public access requirements, all data associated with this research (e.g. surveys, datasets generated from the research, video recordings, image files, etc.) must be made available to the public in an open access data repository. Researchers will be required to comply with MTI's [Data Management Plan \(DMP\)](#) or provide an acceptable alternative to the current DMP. If the latter, please describe, at a minimum, the following:

- A high-level description of the types of data that the research team anticipates gathering in the course of conducting research activities, including whether the data should be preserved for long-term access;
- A proposed outline of the standards and machine-readable formats that will be used for the entire scope of research activities;
- A description of any data access policies that govern (and prevent) the disclosure of identities, confidential business information, national security information, etc., and whether public use files may be generated from the data;
- A general discussion of policies for re-use and re-distribution of research data; and
- A high-level description of how, when, and where the research team plans to archive, preserve, and deposit the research data.

PROPOSAL CHECKLIST

A complete proposal includes the following:

1. Request for Seed Grant Application Form
2. A one-page résumé for each participant (students excluded)
3. Budget in excel format

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Application Form

Proposed Project Title:

Contact Person/Principal Investigator

Name:

Title:

Department/Organization:

Mailing Address:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Team Members: (Provide names and affiliations of all individuals who will be funded by this grant. Attach a one-page resume for each person.)

Amount Requested: (Not to exceed \$5,000)

Describe the project: (What is the topic, how does it align with MTI's Research Emphasis Area noted above, and why is it worth examining as a potential research project? What methodology will you use to explore this topic? What tasks will be done and in what timeframe? Anticipated results? How will your background and experience assist you in conducting your seed grant project? Limit to 1,500 words in scrolling text box below.)

Anticipated Period of Performance:

Recipient Responsibilities: At the conclusion of the research, grantee must prepare a written report discussing the results of the work. The report will be peer reviewed, edited, formatted, and then posted on the MTI website. In addition, all grantees must provide the data obtained as part of the funded research to MTI in accordance with MTI's [Data Management Plan](#).

Compliance with MTI's [Data Management Plan](#):

Yes, the research team, under the direction of the Principal Investigator/Co-Investigators, will comply with MTI's Data Management Plan.

The research team, under the direction of the Principal Investigator/Co-Investigators, presents an alternative Data Management Plan (this must be submitted as a separate document and should be limited to two pages)