

NCTR

NATIONAL CENTER for
TRANSIT RESEARCH

**Program Progress Performance Report
for University Transportation Centers
National Center for Transit Research (NCTR)
University of South Florida
a Tier I Livability University Transportation Center**

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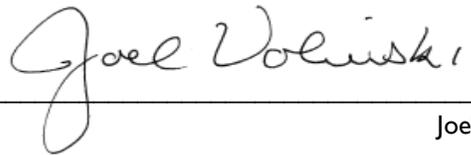
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Signature of Submitting Official: _____



Joel Volinski, NCTR Program Director

NCTR PROGRAM PROGRESS PERFORMANCE REPORT

REPORTING CATEGORIES

1. ACCOMPLISHMENTS: What was done? What was learned?
The information provided in this section allows assessment as to whether satisfactory progress has been made during the reporting period.

This PPPR for NCTR's Livability UTC grant, covering the period from October 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017, represents the seventh six-month report. Substantial work has been done with the resources the grant provides as reported below.

Accomplishments

1. What are the major goals and objectives of the program?
2. What was accomplished under these goals?
3. What opportunities for training and professional development has the program provided?
4. How have the results been disseminated? If so, in what way/s?
5. What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals and objectives?

1. *What are the major goals of the program?*

The goal of NCTR is to conduct research leveraging the strengths of its members in all forms of public transportation, transportation demand management (TDM), and active transportation. Public transportation and transportation demand management (TDM) make livable communities possible; indeed, we regard these transportation modes as prerequisites to communities being safe, livable, and more equitable. The NCTR consortium has a large, stable, multidisciplinary team with extensive experience in transportation research and UTC participation, enabled by dedicated full-time research faculty. Our proposed research addresses USDOT's goal of supporting Livable Communities as well as environmental sustainability and safety. Our research addresses many of the objectives of the USDOT Strategic Plan section on Livable Communities:

- To help improve the performance of, and passenger experience with, public transportation to help increase ridership and mode share.
- To reduce motorized trips by developing tools and policies to improve facilities for pedestrians and other non-motorized modes of travel.
- To improve access to transportation for people with disabilities, older adults, and low-income populations.
- To improve the relationship between land use and transportation and develop multimodal networks to serve communities.
- To promote market-based strategies and information technologies to manage demand on congested roadways.

The research activities conducted by NCTR are undertaken through collaboration among the

four universities, with student research assistants involved in every project undertaken.

Table 1 – Performance Metrics for Research

Measure	Methods/Sources for Tracking
NCTR papers and research reports published	All reports posted to NCTR website; papers monitored quarterly
Presentations of NCTR research results at professional academic and industry association conferences	Quarterly PI reports on presentations
NCTR reports downloaded from NCTR websites	Google analytics and Scholar Commons reports
Students participating in NCTR research projects	PIs required to maintain statistics
NCTR awards and distinctions received	Faculty reporting of awards/distinctions
NCTR citations in other professional papers/media	Google Scholar/Publish or Perish software
Number of patents issued based on NCTR research projects	U.S. Patent Office, USF Technology Transfer Office
Policies/practices changed as a result of NCTR research	Responses to inquiries from NCTR website

NCTR measures its leadership through the number of national professional committees that our consortium members lead, the number of significant roles our research faculty play in forums designed to identify transit research needs, the number of professional development workshops and conferences for which we develop programs, the number of presentations and papers published, and the research agendas prepared in consultation with FTA and state DOTs. Faculty members maintain documentation of these activities.

NCTR faculty engage in providing multiple training opportunities for practicing professionals, as described later is this PPPR. Another significant workforce development initiative funded through the grant is the NCTR Graduate Assistant Research Program (NCTR Scholars). NCTR funds a targeted recruitment campaign aimed at attracting domestic students who are interested in pursuing a master’s degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering with a focus on public transportation.

The goals for workforce development and education include:

Measure	Methods/Sources for Tracking
Number of students who graduate from transportation-related programs or worked on NCTR projects and placement in industry	Reports from respective universities sent to NCTR Director at completion of each semester
Number of students to serve as interns or technical assistants to transit agencies within proximity of consortium members	Reports from respective universities sent to NCTR Director at completion of each semester
Number of students who participate in public transit courses	Reports from respective universities sent to NCTR Director at completion of each semester
Number of people participating in training programs offered by consortium, contact hours, and how they have responded to training program customer satisfaction surveys	Attendance to be recorded at all training sessions; evaluations of all training programs; information forwarded to NCTR for compilation
Number of transportation-related courses offered that were taught by faculty and/or teaching assistants associated with NCTR	Reports from respective universities sent to NCTR Director at completion of each semester
Number of students participating in transportation-related projects funded by grant	Reports from respective universities sent to NCTR Director at completion of each semester
Number of graduate students supported by grant	Reports from respective universities sent to NCTR Director at completion of each semester
Number of students supported by grant who received degrees	Reports from respective universities sent to

	NCTR Director at completion of each semester
Number of attendees at MOSI Exhibit	Visits recorded through interactive exhibit

In regards to technology transfer, the goals include:

- Assertive management of a number of clearinghouse and information centers including the National TDM and Telework Clearinghouse, the National Transit Safety Research and Assistance Center, the GIS in Transit Clearinghouse, the Advanced Energy Transit Portal, and a new program named the Integrated Mobility Clearinghouse dedicated to collecting information on the experience public transit agencies are having in efforts to coordinate with transportation network companies and provide “mobility on demand”.
- The continued digital publishing of the Journal of Public Transportation and examining the feasibility of establishing a new Journal of Transportation Demand Management Research
- The development of patents and licenses for location aware software applications that help all users to better navigate their transportation system and services
- The management of numerous Listservs that allow for the easy and free exchange of information among over 6,000 professionals and students in the nation and the world
- The sponsoring of bi-weekly webinars featuring the results of research from not only NCTR members, but other UTCs as well
- The development and management of a bi-annual GIS in Transit Conference co-sponsored by TRB held in Washington, DC
- Dozens of presentations of completed research at various state and national professional forums

What was accomplished under these goals?

This Livability grant was received from OST-R on September 30, 2013. This grant overlaps a very active transit-focused UTC grant that was awarded in 2012 and is still being utilized, but activity associated with the Livability grant is in full swing while the transit-focused grant is nearing completion. Projects on the federal side of the budget have been established for USF, Texas A&M, FIU, and UIC as listed below:

Federal Projects in the NCTR Livability UTC Grant

- Program Administration
- Center Director
- Teleconferences
- Website Services and Listservs administration
- Transit GIS Conference and Clearinghouse
- National Telework/TDM Clearinghouse
- Transit Safety Research and Technical Assistance Institute
- Advanced Transit Energy Portal

- Travel for Presentations of Research Results

Journal of Public Transportation - Publishing of the Journal of Public Transportation is now in its 20th year, supported through the years by various UTC grants and now by the UTC Livability Grant, as another successful knowledge sharing/technology transfer project. Two editions of the Journal of Public Transportation were produced and released on a quarterly basis during this reporting period (19.4 and 20.1). Nineteen peer-reviewed and professionally edited papers were included in these two editions. Since March 2015 the Journal has been produced only in digital form. ScholarCommons page (host of NCTR's Journal of Public Transportation) had nearly 35,000 downloads of the 468 papers that have been published. Since the Journal was moved to ScholarCommons in late 2015, NCTR has had over 107,000 downloads.

NCTR also started the process of publishing a new journal to be entitled the "Journal of Transportation Demand Management Research." This will have a similar format to the JPT and the intent is to have semi-annual issues. A member of the NCTR Advisory Board has volunteered to serve as the editor of this new journal.

In addition to the ongoing projects funded through NCTR noted above, a number of research projects have been established or completed using federal funding. Research projects completed include:

Evaluation of HART MetroRapid BRT - completed in August 2015. It is a limited scope evaluation of the MetroRapid's first two years of operation in the Tampa, Florida area.

Evaluation of Automated Vehicle Technology for Transit – completed April 2016 as an update to a report completed in 2014. This project was supplemented with funds made available by FTA through the National Bus Rapid Transit Institute at USF. The purpose of this report was to provide an overview of the state of automated vehicle (AV) technology in transit.

Capturing the Benefits of Complete Streets – Completed December 2015. This work contributes to a small but growing body of literature that associates the implementation of Complete Streets projects with increased economic activity such as increased property values, tax collections, and increased business activity (such as new businesses and an increase in jobs). Findings indicated that, despite the recent economic downturn, the Complete Streets projects performed well, demonstrating enhanced economic activity, often outperforming other nearby areas and their cities as a whole.

The following research projects are in process and funded with federal dollars:

Impacts of BRT Access on Residential Properties – This project was established as a joint project between the National Center for Transit Research and the National Institute for Transportation and Communities. The project will review whether having nearby access to Bus Rapid Transit Service has a positive, negative, or neutral effect on the value of residential properties in Eugene, Oregon in the EmX Bus Rapid Transit corridor as has often been shown to be the case

with proximity to light rail and commuter rail stations. The project was granted an extension to collect additional data (for 2016) and also to allow more time for the cash match project from Lane Transit District to get completed. The draft final report will be submitted in April 2017 to NITC and will be finalized pending editorial review.

Impact of BRT Access on Residential Properties: A Review and Summary of Recent Works - Various qualitative and quantitative research has been done on the benefits of investments such as light rail transit (LRT) and bus rapid transit (BRT), in both academic and non-academic publications. Still, very little research has been completed on the modern BRT experience in the U.S. Currently, many communities still adhere to the belief that light rail will bring more development and economic benefit than BRT. In truth, the question is still largely unanswered, particularly regarding impacts on residential property values. The Cleveland Healthline BRT will be used as a case study for studying property values along the corridor. This project is being done as part of Dr. Victoria Perk's dissertation. The dissertation (which includes extremely detailed information on economic theory) and technical NCTR report (which does not require the same amount of information on theory) will be completed in the next reporting period.

USF Sustainable Cities Initiative – This project will build on the great success of similar programs established initially in Oregon where a wide range of faculty and student resources from USF will be brought to bear on the City of Palmetto in nearby Manatee County to partner with the university to examine a multitude of municipal issues dealing with the environment, public services, complete street issues, municipal water services, and anything else of interest to the university representatives and the city partner. NCTR was the initiator of this project which has now been taken on by the University of South Florida.

Regional Transit Service Integration – This project has been started by the University of Illinois at Chicago. The project will review the big picture of how greater coordination and integration among the various transit service providers in the Chicago area can result in greater efficiencies, improved service, and possibly expanded service.

Exploring Transit's Contribution to Livability in Rural Communities: Guidebook and Exercises – The TTI-led study *Rural Transit's Contribution to Livability in Rural Communities* consists of three phases.

Phase 1 was completed on-time May 31, 2015 and consisted of literature review and a pilot community case study of West Columbia, Texas. Lessons learned in Phase 1 were employed to develop a refined method for additional outreach in Phase 2.

Phase 2 is nearly complete and consists primarily of additional community case studies. TTI completed data collection for all three case studies by January 31, 2016 (including stakeholder interview and household survey elements). TTI led additional case studies included Woodburn, Oregon; Hannibal, Missouri; and Bath, Maine. City management in each community helped to arrange stakeholder interviews and provided a local "eye" on survey question wording. Between 10 and 12 stakeholder interviews were conducted in each community. Survey response rates were strong; statistically valid samples at 95% confidence interval and 5%

Match projects funded by the Florida Department of Transportation

Linking Transit with Recreational Trails – This project examined the many ways, through pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements, signage, and transit modifications that those people in low and moderate income communities in particular can have better access to park facilities that are within reasonable distance. The report featured six case studies of communities in Florida. A final report was accepted by the sponsor (FDOT) in February 2016.

Improving Safe Access to Transit through Trip Planning - This project will modify a real-time transit information tool, based on prior research conducted for FDOT and the recent deployment of OneBusAway by Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART) (<http://tampa.onebusaway.org/>), to collect information from the general public that can aid in the identification and prioritization of infrastructure and service improvements. This technique of collecting data from users of a system is typically referred to as “crowdsourcing” information. The regional acquisition and integration of the new issue management tools into the existing customer service processes of the participating transit agencies have taken longer than originally anticipated due to circumstances outside the research team’s control, and the extension is requested to allow for sufficient data collection from the deployed system in the final stage of Task 5. OneBusAway has been deployed to both Pinellas County Transit Authority (PSTA) and Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART), and both agencies have now both adopted the Open311-compatible issue management tool as the main process to receive issue reports from users of the mobile app. This extension is requested to allow for an observation period of three months for the deployed system to collect sufficient data to better understand the impact of the tool on the transit agencies and customers. The end date is November 2017.

Community2Go! Pilot of a Community-Based Voluntary Travel Behavior Change Effort - The CUTR TDM Team is conducting a pilot project funded by the Florida Department of Transportation’s Central Research Office to reduce household vehicle miles of travel in the Tampa Bay area. A community-based social marketing (CBSM) approach is being used to encourage residents to make behavior changes, such as reducing single occupancy vehicle travel, increasing the frequency and distance of walking and bicycling trips, and increasing use of transit. The pilot initiation is expected to last approximately 5 months. Beginning January 1, 2017, Community Based Transportation Coordinators will begin meeting with the first group of households. These households will also begin carrying the TRAC-IT phones for a period of 4 weeks. After the 4 week time period, CBTCs will collect the phones from the first group of households and begin meeting and distributing phones with the second group of households; this group will also carry the TRAC-IT phones for a period of 4 weeks. These methods will be repeated a second time with each group of households, serving as the after portion of the study. The draft final report will be submitted to research.center@dot.state.fl.us on June 30, 2017 and the final report will be submitted on September 30, 2017.

Clearinghouses and technical assistance centers

NCTR strongly believes in the value of establishing clearinghouses and technical assistance centers as part of its mission. These clearinghouses are typically funded through both federal and state matching funds through related projects. These centers allow practicing professionals to exchange information to help solve transportation issues in communities across the country and are often more valuable than research reports. They also help to organize information so that it is readily available to people who are looking for information on a variety of issues dealing with transit and alternative forms of transportation. The TDM and Telework Clearinghouse is highly active and extensively used in the transportation industry. It is acknowledged as “the place to go” for all professionals dealing with methods to help reduce traffic congestion, vehicles miles traveled, and air pollution from vehicle traffic. The information gathered and shared by TDM program managers make them highly sought after speakers at transportation conferences.

NCTR provides technical assistance using a range of methods from fostering self-service to short-term on-site support. NCTR hosts 13 listservs supported by the Livability grant. These listservs have 6,050 subscribers through March 31, 2017.

Online TDM knowledge base. The Clearinghouse’s online TDM knowledge base (KB) provides an intelligent self-service option for hundreds of frequently asked questions as well as case studies and examples. This approach provides a means to reduce the total number of basic inquiries or repeat requests that require personal attention. The objective is to be more cost-effective by providing lower cost transactions with the KB’s self-service feature. This reporting period had 552 searches and 37,384 answers viewed.

On-demand short-term technical support and limited on-site technical assistance. The National TDM and Telework Clearinghouse also engages in a multitude of technical support activities, including interactions with the Association for Commuter Transportation and participants in the Best Workplace for Commuter program, requests for assistance from commuter assistance programs, transit agencies, state departments of transportation, regional planning councils, the media, and others on a range of topics from bike programs, to effective TDM strategies, effective carpool programs, and transit marketing techniques.

Best Workplaces for Commuters

Best Workplace for Commuters™ (BWC) provides qualified employers with national recognition for offering outstanding commuter benefits, such as free or low cost bus passes. Employers that meet the national standard of excellence in commuter benefits are eligible to be designated a Best Workplace for Commuters. Best Workplace for Commuters is a program designed to encourage sustainable transportation innovation. During this reporting period, BWC began the process of identifying employer worksites for a “Race to Excellence” awards. BWC also updated its popular Commuter Benefits Guide and completed four case

studies. A full list of BWC's 231 members is shown on the BWC website at www.bestworkplaces.org

TDM Professional Development and Organizational Learning

Training

NCTR's TDM program contributes significantly to professional development for practitioners in the field of commuter assistance programs. The courses taught provide highly useful information that can be applied by program managers in their attempts to help reduce congestion and pollution, and in the process, improve livability of communities. Courses cover subjects such as bicycle and pedestrian issues, parking management, changing travel behavior by time and place, trends and conditions affecting transportation, TDM societal costs and benefits, commuter tax benefits, how to market TDM to employers, travel choices and public health, and creating vanpool and carpool programs. In the past six months the Commuter Choice Certificate and Social Marketing in Transportation Certificate attracted a total of 245 attendees. The courses were recorded and received additional views. Therefore, we estimate there have been approximately 1,219 contact hours of training. One contact-hour represents one person who attends a 1-hour session.

Netconferences

The following five transit-related netconferences were provided in this reporting period:

Utilizing TBEST for Comprehensive Transit Planning

The Florida Department of Transportation Public Transit Office has developed the Transit Boardings and Simulation Tool (TBEST) transit planning software to support transit agencies in developing data driven processes to support strategic planning, service planning, grant applications, operations analysis. This presentation familiarizes the audience with core TBEST applications and functionality including the following tool sets:

GTFS Network Integration

Network Editing

Ridership Estimation

Market Analysis

FTA Title VI Evaluation

Comprehensive Operational Analysis

Jurisdictional Analysis

Accessibility Analysis

A Holistic Approach to Incident Investigation and Analysis

This webinar discusses the basics of systemic root cause analysis—a method of investigating transit events in a holistic manner—utilizing an actual Florida agency incident report and how to develop a plan to prevent the same unacceptable conditions from happening in the future.

Opening the Door to Multimodal Applications: Creation, Maintenance and Application of GTFS Data

The General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) describes fixed-route public transportation service to facilitate integration of transit information into various applications. This webcast provides an overview of the opportunities to use GTFS for many different types of information services for the general public as well as internal agency operations. Many opportunities exist to create new services based on GTFS data — either to provide transit information through a greater range of delivery formats (e.g., new mobile transit applications), or to provide new ways of understanding and using transit information (e.g., for planning and analysis purposes). For transit agencies that are not openly sharing their data, this webcast informs decisions on prioritizing and justifying investments in open data initiatives surrounding GTFS. For transit agencies that already provide open access to their GTFS data, this webcast assists the agency in maximizing their investment in GTFS data by showcasing examples of many new types of applications that utilize the same GTFS data they are already producing. For Departments of Transportation, MPOs, and other intermodal agencies, this webcast assists them in understanding the current state-of-the-art in public transportation information and helps them integrate this data into intelligent transportation systems (ITS) and multimodal traveler information systems. In addition to a survey of practice, this webcast discusses cutting edge new data formats and initiatives in the GTFS ecosystem, including GTFS best practices, GTFS-realtime, and GTFS-flex for deviated route services.

Pre-certified Method to Estimate Total Transit Usage from Incomplete APC Data for NTD Reporting

This webcast highlights two guidebooks (one for bus modes and one for rail modes) to a statistical method for transit agencies to estimate total transit usage for reporting to the National Transit Database (NTD) with incomplete data from automatic passenger counters (APC). This method is designed for transit agencies with full coverage of APCs on their fleet, but the guidebooks are useful both to agencies already with full APC coverage and those working towards full APC coverage. The guidebooks identify the conditions under which transit agencies may estimate annual total transit usage with this method as a pre-certified alternative sampling technique. The guidebooks also provide detailed steps for agencies to determine whether they meet these conditions. Each guidebook comes with a document of certification by a qualified statistician. Using this method prevents agencies from under-reporting and saves them the need to hire a qualified statistician for certifying it as an alternative sampling technique.

Future of TDM

On February 9, 2017, Best Workplaces for Commuters and the Association for Commuter Transportation co-sponsored the “Future of TDM” webinar. Multimodal apps, autonomous vehicles, mobility on-demand, commuter benefits ordinances and access to a diverse workforce are among the challenges and opportunities facing the transportation demand management (TDM) industry. Four panelists provided their perspectives. The presenters included Rob Henry from GVF (a transportation management association outside of Philadelphia) and current president of the Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) and Julie Bond, project

manager from Best Workplaces for Commuters. Joining them were two past Bob Owens Champion Award winners of ACT: Penny Menton from UCLA and Jon Martz from vRide.

NCTR's YouTube channel added six more recordings during this reporting period and now has 107 recordings including all the netconferences that have been reported in these PPPRs:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/NCTRCUTR>

The National Transit Safety Research and Technical Assistance Center has gained popularity quickly among those looking for the latest in improved transit safety techniques. Project managers continue to actively search for and post transit safety-related notices and informational pieces from FTA, NTSB, TRB, and other organizations. Website Activity for the National Transit Safety Research and Technical Assistance Center remains strong:

Total visits to website during the reporting period: 2,133

New users: 940

The most popular pages viewed were Federal transit safety laws and regulation, transit training, and research.

Other Accomplishments

- Weekly update to website with industry news, research, and other transit industry and research postings.
- Provided updates on FTA MAP-21 and FAST Act related regulatory progress and activities, including issues related to WMATA, safety standards, and performance measures.
- Continued postings, update, and maintenance of TRB's Task Force on Transit Safety and Security website: www.trbtss.org. All listservs were "moved" to an on campus server in January. There were 191 new users, with the most active day drawing 52 views.

The NCTR Transit Safety Research and Technical Assistance Center also contributes significantly to workforce development through the training of practitioners from local transit agencies throughout the state of Florida. The contact hour/participant totals for our training programs for the reporting period are provided in the following paragraphs.

Florida Transit Safety Network

The Florida Transit Safety Network engages in dozens of activities managed by NCTR faculty such as conducting teleconferences with FTSN committees or chairs, incorporating Florida State Safety Oversight content to the FTSN website, maintaining the www.floridatsn.org website, maintaining and populating the FTSN Listserv, and coordinating travel, logistics, and content delivery for FTSN quarterly meetings.

The FTSN program also has a website that has attracted 2,500 users. The most active day on the **FTSN website** drew 60 views. The FTSN also has a very active listserv. During the progress

period, there were 179 members of the **FTSN listserv** with 6 members added during the period. There were 60 postings to the listserv from January through March of 2017.

Transit Maintenance Analysis and Resource Center (TMAARC)

Another program developed jointly by the FDOT, CUTR, and the FPTA is the Transit Maintenance Analysis and Resource Center (TMAARC) which serves as a matching project to the Livability Grant. TMAARC provides transit technicians with quality training and information to facilitate their advancement in the public transit arena. Participants not only learn skills to keep up with the rapidly changing technology associated with transit buses, but are also able to earn an AA degree from the Hillsborough County Community College in the process of earning credits through the program. Four different training courses were offered during the six-month reporting period, attended by 62 transit maintenance personnel for a total of 1,844 contact hours.

Florida Transit Operator Trainer Training Program

The Florida Transit Operator Trainer Training Program is also used as match to the federal UTC grant. The program provides standardized state and federal curriculum training to Florida's transit operator trainers. The program has grown to include a statewide transit operator trainer certificate program as well as an effective and proactive Florida Operations network. It works closely with the USDOT's Transportation Safety Institute to develop and offer transit training. During the progress period, there were 109 members of the **FON listserv** with 5 members added. There were 49 postings to the listserv from January 14th through the end of the reporting period. Training courses for the FTSN and Operator Training Program were combined at the beginning of this quarter with the two programs combined under the new Florida Transit Safety and Operations Network grant program. The combined programs offered 7 courses during the period, attended by 99 transit professionals, representing 2,478 contact hours. In addition, the program offers two computer based training courses available on an e-learning platform. There were 254 "completions" of these courses for a total of 120 contact hours of training.

The Florida Statewide Transit Technical Assistance and Training Program, a matching project funded by FDOT, was also active as part of the Livability grant that generates and provides assistance in the areas of producing training materials, coordinating the logistics for training programs, creating full record course file folders for each training which includes a copy of the registration flier, arranging yet additional training, conducting course evaluations, and other actions as requested by either transit agencies in Florida or the Florida DOT. Five different training courses were offered during the six-month reporting period, attended by 70 transit maintenance personnel for a total of 820 contact hours.

GIS in Transit Clearinghouse

The biannual Transit GIS conference planning effort continued during this reporting period. The call for presenters has closed and the planning committee is reviewing and grouping the presentations. The committee expects over 60 presentations and three pre-conference workshops. The conference is being held in Washington, DC on September 6-8, 2017. In addition, the Clearinghouse continues to post information on new GIS applications in transit and offers a forum for information exchange among GIS professionals.

The Advanced Transit Energy Portal (ATEP):

Advanced Transit Energy Portal is an online information exchange and clearinghouse resource covering all aspects of adoption and operation of alternative fuel buses. Alternative fuels contribute to improved livability by reducing the amount of carbon released to the atmosphere and often reducing the cost of providing transit, allowing more service to be provided. ATEP was envisioned as a single-point source of theoretical and practical knowledge about transit vehicles with advanced propulsion systems. The website (www.AdvancedTransitEnergy.org) features articles in the following categories:

- agency news
- industry news
- events
- laws and incentives
- publications
- research results

In addition to article posts, the website also features data collection pages, allowing participating agencies to securely submit their fleet operations and cost data to CUTR for analysis of the field performance of alternative fuel vehicles.

Statistics for past 6 months (Oct 2016 – Mar 2017):

- 51 new posts on the website
- the website was viewed 711 times by 478 users
- a total of 1,245 page views
- 66.7% of the users were new visitors while 33.3% - were returning users
- Average page view session duration: 1 minute and 11 seconds
- Countries with the highest percentage of total visits to the Website:
 - United States – 35.16%
 - Russia – 20.39%
 - Canada – 11.95%
 - Germany – 5.06%
- Top U.S. visits from the following states:
 - Florida – 41.6%
 - California – 18.0%
 - Texas – 9.20%
 - Massachusetts – 7.2%

2. *How have the results been disseminated?*

The TDM Knowledge Base provided 37,384 answers to questions asked by members of the TDM Listserv. Two editions of the Journal of Public Transportation were published containing 19 papers. Notification of the availability of the two new editions was sent via the Listservs maintained by NCTR/CUTR, reaching over 2,600 transportation professionals. Articles from the Journal were downloaded 35,000 times. Three research reports were completed during this reporting period and posted to the NCTR website. NCTR maintains an alerting service to almost 2,000 subscribers who ask to be advised when a new report is available.

3. *What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals?*

A new Journal for Transportation Demand Management is being developed, though it is difficult to determine the exact starting date. We plan to continue implementing the activities that are funded through the federal side of the grant, most particularly the clearinghouses and the research projects, including students on every project. Additional webinars (two per month) will be conducted featuring the results of NCTR research, as well as other research presentations that can be made by other UTCs. Projects associated with the technical assistance and training programs as described earlier will continue. The federally funded projects to be undertaken by FIU and UIC will be nearing completion. TTI will finish Phase III of the project entitled "Exploring Transit's Contribution to Livability in Rural Communities: Guidebook and Exercises."

Work on creating the transit exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry is on a hiatus as the museum is experiencing severe financial strains and is now anticipating moving from its current location near USF to a location in downtown Tampa. Regrettably, USF was not selected to receive a UTC grant in the most recent round of competition and it might not be in a position to select an NCTR Student of the Year.

2. PRODUCTS: What has the program produced?

Publications are the characteristic product of research projects funded by the UTC Program. OST-R may evaluate what the publications demonstrate about the excellence and significance of the research and the efficacy with which the results are being communicated to colleagues, potential users, and the public, not the number of publications. Many research projects (though not all) develop significant products other than publications. OST-R may assess and report both publications and other products to Congress, communities of interest, and the public.

Instruction - Products

Publications, conference papers, and presentations

As noted above, funds from the Journal of Public Transportation account were utilized to help pay for two editions of the Journal featuring 19 papers submitted from researchers all over the world. No research reports were completed during the reporting period, but many are in

various stages of completion are we expect a half-dozen to be completed in the next reporting period.

The amount of research done by the faculty at NCTR is significant with 40 full time research faculty members. The engagement they have through their Listservs, clearinghouses, and committee assignments keeps them well informed on a variety of issues in public transportation and transportation demand management that provides them the opportunity to put together presentations at a variety of state, regional, national, and international meetings where they are well known. Twenty nine (29) presentations were made during the reporting period based on research and communications funded through NCTR. While it would take too much space to list them all, it can be noted that most were made at the TRB and Association of Commuter Transportation conferences.

1. *Website(s) or other Internet site(s)*

NCTR's website is highly visited by people seeking information on public transit and other modes of non-Single Occupant Vehicle transportation. During this six month period there were about 37,000 sessions (up 39% from previous six months), 29,000 users (+44%), and 65,000 page views (+28%). When people query "transit research", NCTR's website is the top listing on Google, #2 on Bing (behind TRB) and top listing on Yahoo!.

The National Transit Safety Research and Technical Assistance Center website reports having 941 visitors during this reporting period. In addition to managing the NCTR Transit Safety Center website, the program manager, as a member of TRB's Task Force for Transit Safety and Security, developed and is maintaining a website for the Task Force (www.trbtss.org.)

The Florida Transit Safety Network program also has a website that attracted 2,500 users.

The Advanced Transit Energy Portal website was visited over 700 times during this reporting period.

To summarize, during the six month reporting period, the websites maintained by NCTR researchers had a total of over 32,000 users.

2. *Technologies or techniques*

The @NCTRUSF Twitter account has 909 followers, an increase of 6% over the last reporting period.

3. *Inventions, patent applications, and/or licenses*

No patents were issued based on NCTR research. However, USF remains in the top 15 universities worldwide for receiving patents with 16 granted for work funded through NCTR. NCTR continues to work with NSF I-Corps to help assess the potential for commercialization of NCTR patent "Travel Assistance Device". The primary goal of the NSF I-Corps is to foster entrepreneurship leading to commercialization of technology that has been supported previously by federally-funded research by combining experience and guidance from established entrepreneurs with a targeted curriculum.

4. Other products

OneBusAway is an open source platform for real time transit information. NCTR did not create the software but continues to contribute to its improvements and to helping disseminate its availability. This software enables a low cost provision of real time information. It is growing in popularity and used by over 400,000 transit passengers in 9 different cities including New York.

3. PARTICIPANTS & COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS: Who has been involved?
RITA needs to know who has worked on the project to gauge and report performance in promoting partnerships and collaborations.

Instructions-Participants & Collaborating Organizations

1. What organizations have been involved as partners?

Texas A&M is about to start the final phase of their three phase research project on rural livability. USF's other two consortium partners (Florida International University and the University of Illinois at Chicago) have begun their research projects.

The Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa expressed interest in hosting an educational exhibit to introduce children to public transit but is undergoing a review of its finances and ability to continue and might result in the project not going forward.

As noted earlier, the NCTR Transit Safety Center program manager, as a member of TRB's Task Force for Transit Safety and Security, developed a website (www.trbtss.org) for the Task Force.

2. Have other collaborators or contacts been involved?

NCTR has worked closely with the Association for Commuter Transportation to plan and produce webinars that are hosted by NCTR faculty and to plan their conference programs.

The Florida Public Transportation Association works closely with NCTR faculty in the development and production of the Annual Professional Development Workforce conference that will be held on the campus of USF in June 2017.

NCTR works in close cooperation with the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Public Transportation Association to administer the many training programs for bus operators, maintenance technicians, planners, and trainers. All three also work together in providing administrative assistance to the Florida Transit Safety Network, the Florida Transit Planners Network, the Florida Transit Maintenance Network, and the Florida Transit Marketing Network. FDOT provides the funding and oversees the programs that are administered by NCTR faculty at USF.

Hillsborough County Community College coordinates with the Transit Maintenance Analysis and Resource Center (TMAARC) program that provides transit technicians with quality training and information to facilitate their advancement in the public transit arena. Participants not only learn skills to keep up with the rapidly changing bus technology, but can also earn an AA degree from Hillsborough County Community College in the process of earning program credits.

NCTR and the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) work cooperatively to institute and improve the OneBusAway software to provide transit users with real time information on the arrival time of the next bus at any bus stop.

NCTR and the National Center for Transportation and Communities are jointly funding the project entitled "Impact of BRT on Residential Properties." In addition, NCTR Director Joel Volinski serves on the Executive Committee of NITC to help identify and select projects for funding, and helps to disseminate information to USF faculty and staff regarding opportunities for funding for curriculum development, a speakers series, and student support.

The USF Sustainable Cities Initiative has selected the City of Palmetto in Manatee County near USF which is serving as the first case study for the initiative. This project involves many dozens of students and faculty members who are working cooperatively with the city to identify issues and develop creative solutions to a variety of public infrastructure issues.

The Community2Go! Pilot of a Community-Based Voluntary Travel Behavior Change Effort project is a pilot project to reduce household vehicle miles of travel in the Tampa Bay area. A community-based social marketing (CBSM) approach is being used to encourage residents to make behavior changes, such as reducing single occupancy vehicle travel, increasing the frequency and distance of walking and bicycling trips, and increasing use of transit. Seventy-two households have been recruited for this project.

Two hundred and thirty one (231) employers, including private and public entities from all over the country, participate in the Best Workplace for Commuters program and share their best practices with all members.

Certification maintenance credits (CM) are awarded to members of the American Planning Association (APA) with the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) professional credential for those who complete Transportation Demand Management courses offered by

NCTR. Offering CM credits increases participation by providing the incentive for planners to attend the training. AICP planners must obtain 32 hours of CM credits every two years.

A number of agencies are working with FIU for its project on pedestrian facility inventory including FDOT District #6, the FHWA Florida Division, and the Broward County MPO. The National Transit Safety Research and Technical Assistance Center works closely with USDOT's Transportation Safety Institute when putting curriculum together for safety training courses, and also work together to certify transit personnel to become safety instructors.

The NCTR Advisory Board is comprised of professionals from TRB, APTA, FPTA, FTA, FDOT, private transit management companies, and private consultants.

4. **IMPACT:** What is the impact of the program? How has it contributed to transportation education, research and technology transfer?

Over the years, this base of knowledge, techniques, people, and infrastructure is drawn upon again and again for application to commercial technology and the economy, to health and safety, to cost-efficient environmental protection, to the solution of social problems, to numerous other aspects of the public welfare, and to other fields of endeavor.

DOT uses this information to assess how the research and education programs:

- increase the body of knowledge and techniques;
- enlarge the pool of people trained to develop that knowledge and techniques or put it to use; and,
- improve the physical, institutional, and information resources that enable those people to get their training and perform their functions.

Impact

This component should describe ways in which the work, findings, and specific products of the program have had an impact during this reporting period. Describe distinctive contributions, major accomplishments, innovations, successes, or any change in practice or behavior that has come about as a result of the program relative to:

1. The development of the principal discipline(s) of the project;
2. Other disciplines;
3. The development of human resources;
4. Physical, institutional, and information resources at the university and/or other partner institution;
5. Technology transfer (include transfer of results to entities in government or industry, adoption of new practices, or instances where research has led to the initiation of a start-up company); or
6. Society beyond science and technology.

1. ***What is the impact on the development of the principal discipline(s) of the program?***

NCTR partners have had a long history of transit research and education, which, in addition to its successful track record of producing first rate research, providing leadership in the industry, and graduating students who contribute to the transportation field, was no doubt part of the reason it was selected for the UTC grant. Consequently, the grant does not necessarily contribute to the *development* of the disciplines of the program, but the resources of the grant allow NCTR to remain an important resource to the public transit industry and the public.

What is the impact on other disciplines?

NCTR, with its 40-member full time research faculty, has long been populated with a variety of disciplines including but not limited to civil engineering, urban planning, computer science, geography, public administration, economics, mathematics, and anthropology. In addition, NCTR faculty have worked with other disciplines at member universities when their talents can add to the value of a research project. As noted in the previous question, the UTC grant does not necessarily impact other disciplines, but it does allow the faculty with such multiple disciplines to be able to apply their skills to a variety of transportation challenges.

2. What is the impact on the development of transportation workforce development?

NCTR, in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation, the Florida Public Transportation Association, the Association for Commuter Transportation, and TRB excel in providing training to practicing professionals at a variety of levels, and very possibly at levels higher than any other UTC in the country. A summary of the impact of training to improve the skills of the current workforce is provided below:

Program	Participants	Contact Hours
Commuter Choice Training	225	802
Social Marketing in Transportation	20	417
Technical Assistance and Training Program	70	820
Transit Maintenance AARC	62	1,844
Transit Operator Trainer Program	99	2,478
TOTAL Training	1,359	10,458

In addition to the direct training received at the venues noted above, NCTR faculty made 29 other presentations at state, regional, and national professional conferences. Estimating an average of 40 attendees in each session where presentations were made, another 1,160 transportation professionals benefitted from research findings presented by NCTR faculty. Finally, NCTR and CUTR produce webinars on a bi-weekly basis (less frequently during major holidays) that features the results of transit research and program technical assistance. An average of 40 people attend the webinars on a live basis, and a bit more view the webinar on a recorded basis. Hence, an additional 700 transportation professionals were able to increase their knowledge of various transportation issues through the webinars offered by CUTR/NCTR.

3. What is the impact on physical, institutional, and information resources at the university or other partner institutions?

Nothing to report

4. What is the impact on technology transfer?

The publishing of two editions of the Journal of Public Transportation was supported with funds from this Livability grant. Individual articles and full text issues were downloaded over 35,000 times. The grant also supports the administration and maintenance of the various Listservs that allow the exchange of information among almost 8,000 transportation professionals in the areas of transportation demand management, safety, etc., resulting in an incredible amount of transfer of knowledge among practicing professionals, university researchers, and students.

5. *What is the impact on society beyond science and technology?*

Clearly it is hoped that efforts to encourage the use of transit and alternative and active modes of transportation results in the reduction of congestion and air pollution. The information collected and shared helps transit agencies to be more efficient and safe in their provision of service, while information on alternative fuels helps reduce the costs of transit as well as its carbon footprint, resulting in cleaner air to breathe and a small step toward slowing global warming. The training that is offered through direct courses taught through NCTR enables practitioners in the field to perform their functions more efficiently and effectively, resulting in better quality of service to the public. The research report on linking transit to recreational areas helps the health and welfare, particularly of lower income communities with fewer mobility options to reach these public recreation areas.

5. CHANGES/PROBLEMS

Changes/Problems

1. *Changes in approach and reasons for change*

Nothing to report, no changes to this point

2. *Actual or anticipated problems or delays and actions or plans to resolve them*

Nothing to report

3. *Changes that have a significant impact on expenditures*

Nothing to report

4. *Significant changes in use or care of human subjects, vertebrate animals, and/or biohazards*

Nothing to report, and no anticipation of the need to report in the future since no projects will be dealing with these subjects.

5. *Change of primary performance site location from that originally proposed*

Nothing to report.

Additional information regarding Products and Impacts
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UTCs are encouraged to consider identifying program results by outputs, outcomes or impacts as suggested by the examples below. Impacts should be linked to National goals expressed in the Secretary's Strategic Goals.
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While no research projects were completed during this reporting period, we anticipate over a half-dozen will be completed in the next reporting period. The impacts of the training offered through the TDM program and other transit safety programs will result in less congestion, reduced pollution, fewer accidents, and equipment that can be kept in service for the maximum amount of years, thereby reducing capital costs for transit systems.

6. SPECIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
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Nothing to report