

FY 2016 Request for Proposals

National Transportation Center @ Maryland

The National Transportation Center @ Maryland (NTC@Maryland) is soliciting research proposals aligned with its theme of “Strategic Transportation Policies, Investments and Decisions for Economic Competitiveness”. The Center conducts research and provides education and technology transfer related to this theme, and directly supports USDOT’s strategic goal of economic competitiveness with consideration of other relevant strategic goals such as safety and environmental sustainability. NTC@Maryland, established in 2013, is part of the University Transportation Center (UTC) Program authorized by the U.S. Congress and managed by the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology (OST-R). Additional information about the Center and its research agenda is provided in the NTC’s Strategic Plan and on the Center website (<http://ntc.umd.edu>). The center is a consortium of seven universities including University of Maryland (UMD, lead university), Arizona State University (ASU), Louisiana State University (LSU), Morgan State University (MSU), North Carolina State University (NCSU), Old Dominion University (ODU), and the University of New Orleans (UNO).

Research proposals submitted in response to this solicitation must fall within the scope of the center. The UTC program requires that all centers identify non-Federal matching funds in an amount equal to the funding provided by the USDOT. For this reason, proposals should include details about non-Federal matching funds in the budget section.

Projects may be one or two years in duration. However, two-year projects must be structured such that a deliverable product is provided at the end of the first year with funding for the subsequent year contingent on the successful completion of the first year’s work. NTC@Maryland strongly encourages proposal teams that include researchers from more than one member universities and will give funding priorities to multi-university collaborative proposals.

Proposal Submission Process

Proposals should follow the formatting requirements in the attached proposal template, presented in 11 point font or larger. Proposals must be emailed to the NTC@Maryland Associate Director (email addresses are available at <http://ntc.umd.edu/staff>) at the respective member universities:

1. By 5:00 PM Local Time on Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Proposal Selection Process

Proposals will be first screened by NTC@Maryland. Proposals that do not meet the formatting requirements of this Solicitation will be eliminated from further consideration. The screened proposals will be submitted to an expert panel for rigorous peer review. Every effort will be made to ensure that the expert panel is made up of individuals with a range of technical knowledge that spans the potential subject areas being proposed. However, it is unlikely that all panel members will have in-depth knowledge of all of the subject areas being proposed. For this reason, it is important that proposals be prepared at a level of detail that will be understood by individuals with specialties other than those in the subject matters being proposed.

The NTC@Maryland Executive Committee, which consists of the Center Director and Associate Directors will make funding decisions for all proposals based on the assessments and recommendations of the review panel and available budget.

Evaluation Criteria

The review panel will be asked to evaluate proposals using the following criteria:

1. Alignment of proposed effort with center's theme;
2. Quality and intellectual merit of the research proposal;
3. Multi-university collaboration;
4. Potential benefits to society that would result from successful completion of the work;
5. Relevance of proposed effort with the national transportation agendas, including Department of Transportation priority areas;
6. Qualifications of the investigators;
7. Appropriateness of the proposed budget;
8. Principal investigator's performance in prior projects;
9. Likelihood the proposed work can be completed in proposed timeframe and within proposed budget;
10. Use of non-Federal matching funds to supplement NTC funding;

Questions and Contacts

Questions about this solicitation should be directed to the NTC@Maryland Director or Associate Director at the respective member universities.