

**Centers for Surface Transportation Excellence**

§ 5309

**Program Purpose**

SAFETEA-LU establishes four new centers for surface transportation excellence. The goal of the centers is to promote and support strategic national surface transportation programs and activities, relating to the work of state Departments of Transportation (DOTs) in the areas of environment, surface transportation safety, rural safety, and project finance.

**Statutory References**

SAFETEA-LU Section: §5309. Funding from §5101(a)(1)

**Program Features**

The Rural Safety Center – Will provide research, training, and outreach on innovative uses of technology to: enhance rural safety, enhance economic development, assess local community needs to improve mobile emergency treatment, and develop online and seminar training to meet the needs of rural transportation practitioners and policy-makers.

The Surface Transportation Safety Center – Will develop and disseminate advanced transportation safety techniques and innovations in both rural areas and urban communities. The center will use a controlled access highway, with state-of-the-art features, to test safety devices and techniques that enhance driver performance; examine advanced pavement and lighting systems; and develop techniques to address older driver and driver fatigue issues.

The *Environmental Excellence* and *Project Finance* centers are administered separately.

**Funding**

Funds are authorized by section 5101(a)(1) of SAFETEA-LU for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2009 as follows:

Year	2005	2006*	2007	2008	2009
Surface Transportation Safety	\$0M	\$529,517*	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000
Rural Safety		\$617,769*	\$875,000	\$875,000	\$875,000

\*Actual funding levels

With the exception of the Federal share, the funds authorized by this section will be available for obligation in the same manner as if apportioned under Chapter 1 of title 23 U.S.C.

**Federal Share**

The Federal share is 100%.

**Implementation**

As specified in SAFETEA-LU, the Center for Excellence in Surface Transportation Safety will be established at the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, and the Center for Excellence in Rural Safety will be established at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute, Minnesota. Each center must develop a multiyear strategic plan that describes activities and specific projects and how they will be coordinated with FHWA and other research, development, and technology transfer authorized by Title 5.

**See Also**

- Office of Safety Website – <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/>
- Surface Transportation Research – <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/factsheets/str.htm>
- Center for Excellence in Rural Safety– <http://www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/slp/ruralsafety/>
- Center for Excellence in Surface Transportation Safety – <http://www.vtti.vt.edu/>

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