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Contact: Roger Lotz
Tel.: 202-366-2246

MIT-Based New England University Transportation Center Receives RITA Grant for Transportation Education and Research

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) announced today that a \$665,000 federal grant has been awarded to the New England University Transportation Center (UTC), based at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), to apply research and the latest technologies to improve the management of transportation systems.

The New England University Transportation Center is part of the national UTC program, which is administered by RITA. RITA is dedicated to coordinating the Department's research and development programs and advancing innovative technology solutions to the challenges facing America's transportation system. Grant recipients are required to provide matching funds.

"UTC programs attract talented researchers and students today to engage them in creating the transportation system of tomorrow," said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta. "This grant demonstrates the importance of research and technology to the Department's mission of making sure that transportation continues to be an engine of economic growth for the United States well into the 21st century."

The New England UTC is a consortium of universities which includes MIT, Harvard University, and the state universities of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

The New England UTC conducts research, education and technology transfer that focuses on managing surface transportation systems in order to improve the safety and efficiency of America's roadways and mass transit systems. The Center also trains current and future transportation professionals with the skills required to manage today's modern transportation infrastructure. More information about the New England UTC can be found at http://web.mit.edu/ctl/www/research/re_utc.html.

More than 75 colleges and universities throughout the United States participate in the UTC program conducting transportation research, education and technology transfer. Last year, UTC colleges and universities graduated over 1,100 students with advanced transportation-related degrees, offered almost 2,000 undergraduate and graduate transportation courses, conducted 300 research projects, and trained 32,000 practicing transportation professionals. More information about the UTC program can be found at www.rita.dot.gov.

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