RESEARCH AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATION

Overview: The Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) was created under the Norman Y. Mineta Research and Specials Programs Improvement Act (Public Law 108-426). The establishment of RITA will enable the Department to more effectively coordinate and manage the Department's research portfolio and expedite implementation of cross-cutting innovative technologies. Under the reorganization, RITA's resources will be used to coordinate and advance transportation research efforts within DOT; support transportation professionals in their research efforts through grants and consulting services, as well as professional development through training centers; and inform transportation decision-makers on intermodal and multi-modal transportation topics through the release of statistics, research reports, and a variety of information products via the internet, publications, and in-person venues such as conferences.

The FY 2006 budget request of $39.1 million is composed of $32.8 million from the Highway Trust Fund and $6.3 million from the General Fund appropriation. In addition, RITA will undertake over $300 million in transportation-related research on a reimbursable basis for other agencies.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATION BUDGET

(Dollars In Millions)

	2004 [1] Actual	2005 [1] Enacted	2006 Request
Research and Development	--	4	6
Bureau of Transportation Statistics (non-add Allocation Account under Federal-aid Highways)	[31]	[30]	[33]
TOTAL	--	4	6

[1] For FY 2004 and FY 2005, Research and Development funding prior to the effective date of the reorganization is shown under the Research and Special Programs account of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (formerly the Research and Special Programs Administration).

FY 2006 Budget

The Administration's FY 2006 budget request reflects a reorganization of several of the Department of Transportation's intermodal and multi-modal research and related activities into a single agency.

Research and Development: The budget request includes $6.2 million for Research and Development. RITA will coordinate and advance the pursuit of transportation research that cuts across all modes of transportation, and will provide research results to transportation professionals for inclusion in evaluative and decision-making processes. In addition, the agency will coordinate and advance innovative transportation technologies intended to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the movement of people and goods. Further, RITA will provide transportation providers and decision-makers with information about the effectiveness of transportation infrastructure investments and the efficiency of intermodal transportation in the movement of people and goods.

Transportation Statistics: In FY 2006, $33 million is requested for the Bureau of Transportation Statistics to provide multi-modal and intermodal transportation data and information through public venues.

Consulting and Other Professional Services: Over $300 million in transportation-related research will be conducted by RITA on a reimbursable basis for other agencies during FY 2006. The Volpe Transportation Systems Center will provide technical knowledge and expertise to customers with specific transportation systems and logistics projects or issues. The Transportation Safety Institute will provide training to transportation professionals in state-of-the-art safety methods and technologies. Through the National Transportation Library, RITA will provide professionals, as well as the public, with access to transportation and related documents or reference to source information. Through the University Transportation Centers, RITA will support the education of transportation professionals in obtaining advanced degrees in transportation-related programs from participating universities.