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Texas A&M Receives RITA Grant for Education and Research at Southwest Region University Transportation Center

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 Southwest Region University Transportation Center (SWUTC), based at Texas A&M University, to find transportation solutions that will improve the quality of life for local communities.

The SWUTC is part of the national University Transportation Centers 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."

SWUTC's scientists, engineers, and students focus their research expertise on supporting economic growth and trade; enhancing mobility, accessibility, and efficiency; promoting safety and a safe environment; and developing the transportation workforce. The SWUTC consortium includes the Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University, The University of Texas at Austin's Center for Transportation Research, and Texas Southern University's Center for Transportation Training and Research. More information is available at <http://swutc.tamu.edu>.

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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