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University of South Florida Receives RITA Grant For Transportation Education and Research

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) announced today that just over \$1 million in grant money was awarded to the University of South Florida's National Center for Transit Research, a DOT-funded University Transportation Center (UTC), to support the full range of the Center's education and research programs.

"UTC programs attract talented researchers and students and engage them in new approaches to the transportation issues of tomorrow," said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta. "This grant demonstrates the Bush Administration's continued commitment to fostering innovation and leadership, as transportation continues to move the U.S. economy forward in the 21st century."

At the University of South Florida's National Center for Transit Research, the principal focus is public transportation. Public transportation, broadly defined as alternatives to the single-occupant vehicle, includes modes such as carpool and vanpool, paratransit, bus, and guideway transit technologies. In addition, research activities focus on the interface of public transit with other transportation modes as well as the integration of public transit considerations within transportation and land use planning tools and procedures. More information about the National Center for Transit Research can be found at <http://www.nctr.usf.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 almost 300 research projects, and trained 32,000 practicing transportation professionals.

The UTC program is administered by RITA and grant recipients are required to provide matching funds. More information on UTC grants can be found at www.rita.dot.gov.

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