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**Research and Innovative Technology Administration -- News**

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## **University of Washington Receives RITA Grant for Transportation Education and Research in Pacific Northwest**

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 University of Washington's Transportation Northwest to apply research and the latest technologies to improve transportation operations and planning.

Transportation Northwest (TransNow) is part of the national University Transportation Centers (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 21<sup>st</sup> century."

TransNow coordinates a network of transportation research and educational programs in the Pacific Northwest that includes the University of Washington, Portland State University, Oregon State University, Washington State University, the University of Idaho, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The geographic area served by these schools is a microcosm of transportation throughout the United States, with a diversity of modes, infrastructure systems, and area types, making it a prime testing ground for transportation operations and planning research. More information about TransNow can be found at <http://www.transnow.org>.

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](http://www.rita.dot.gov).

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