

The METRANS Transportation Center (METRANS) is located at the University of Southern California (USC), and is a joint partnership between USC and California State University, Long Beach.

METRANS was awarded a \$2.8 million grant from the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT), authorized under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, with an additional \$707,050 awarded in Federal Fiscal Year 2015. The funds are used for transportation research, workforce development, technology transfer and education.

METRANS will conduct an integrated, multidisciplinary program of research, education, and technology transfer aimed at increasing the economic competitiveness of large metropolitan areas through improved transportation system performance. Their research program is organized into two themes:

- 1) Understanding passenger/freight interactions
- 2) Achieving system efficiencies.

Caltrans Funding: Caltrans is providing \$2.1 million in match funding over a Contract Term from June 30, 2014 – June 30, 2018, as follows:

- Fiscal Year 2013/14: \$707,050
- Fiscal Year 2014/15: \$707,050
- Fiscal Year 2015/16: \$707,050

METRANS' Three-Year Research Program:

The Year 1 Program resulted from a limited solicitation to key METRANS faculty whereas the Year 2 Program featured an open solicitation in fall 2014. The Year 3 Program is currently undergoing another open solicitation with the goal of executing contracts for new projects by fall 2016. The METRANS Executive Committee and Caltrans reviewed proposals on the basis of proposal quality, relevance to the research topics, and likelihood of generating a scholarly product within a one-year period.

Year 1 – Research Highlights:

- Urban Spatial Structure, Employment Sub-Centers and Passenger & Freight Travel
- Mitigating Urban Freight Through Effective Management of Truck Chassis
- Tracking Truck Flows with Programmable Mobile Devices

Year 2 – Research Highlights:

- Development of an Economic Framework to Evaluate
- Integration of Passenger and Freight Rail Scheduling
- Route Choice Characteristics of Owner-Operated Trucks in Southern California Freeways

Year 3 – Open Solicitation for Research Proposals:

- March 2016 Open call for proposals
- May – July 2016 Review proposals
- August 2016 Select research projects