



Caltrans Division of Research,
Innovation and System Information

The University of California Center on Economic Competitiveness in Transportation

Fact Sheet

The University of California, Berkeley leads the University of California Center on Economic Competitiveness in Transportation (UCCONNECT). Other consortium members include UC Irvine; UCLA; UC Riverside, UC Santa Barbara, and its affiliate member Cal Poly Pomona.

UCCONNECT was awarded a \$7.7 million grant from the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT), authorized under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act with an additional \$2.55 million, in Federal Fiscal Year 2015. The funds are used for transportation-related research, workforce development, technology transfer, and educational activities.

UCCONNECT is dedicated to the proposition that economic competitiveness comes by mobilizing society in general, and the workforce in particular; and by delivering goods and services in the most efficient ways possible. The Center recognizes that achieving these aims requires innovative ideas for combating transport congestion and its attendant costs. These costs do not only entail monetary, out-of-pocket expenses, but also include lost times, lost opportunities and environmental externalities.

Caltrans Funding: Caltrans is providing \$7.173 million in match funding over a Contract Term from June 30, 2014 – June 30, 2018, as follows:

- Fiscal Year 2013/14: \$4.181 million
- Fiscal Year 2014/15: \$1.296 million
- Fiscal Year 2015/16: \$1,396 million
- Fiscal Year 2016/17: \$300,000

Year 1 – Research Highlights:

- Demand forecasting and activity-based mobility modeling from cell phone data: collaboration with AT&T that resulted in the development of machine learning algorithms to develop large-scale transportation simulations of the Bay Area.
- Pricing urban transportation networks: multi-modal strategies leveraging big data.
- Heightening walking above its pedestrian status: a study of walking and travel behavior in California.

Year 2 – Research Highlights:

- From LOS to VMT, VHT and beyond through data fusion: an application of the objectives of SB-743 in the context of the integrated corridor management efforts.
- Analyzing the effectiveness of State and local incentives on ownership of alternative fuel vehicles.
- Mobile apps and transportation: exploring data metric potential and user response to multi-modal traveler information.

Year 3 – Closed 3rd Solicitation for Research Proposals & DOTP seminar series:

- Sep 2015 Open call for proposals
- Dec– Jan 2016 Review and proposal selection (13 new projects awarded)
- Conducted a series of 4 seminars at Caltrans Headquarters on Big Data, Office Landscape, Bike & Ped Safety and Urban Congestion & Accessibility, topics selected in coordination with DOTP.