DRISI
Caltrans Division of Research, Innovation and System Information

# *The METRANS Transportation Center*

## *Fact Sheet*

The METRANS Transportation Center (METRANS) is located at the University of Southern California (USC), and is a joint partnership of 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. 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 around two multimodal themes: 1) understanding passenger/freight interactions, and 2) achieving system efficiencies.

Caltrans Funding: Caltrans is providing $1.4 million in match funding, as follows:
Fiscal Year 2013/14: $707,050
Fiscal Year 2014/15: $707,050

Contract Term: June 30, 2014 - September 30, 2017

METRANS' Three Part Research Program:
The Year 1 Launch Projects were selected by Caltrans Division of Transportation Planning (DOTP) as their top research priority areas. The Year 1 Request for Proposals (RFP) Projects is the result of a limited solicitation to key faculty. Faculty was asked to submit short proposals on the METRANS topic areas. Proposals were reviewed by the METRANS Executive Committee, and selections were made on the basis of proposal quality, relevance to the research topics, and likelihood of generating a scholarly product within a one-year period. Year 2 will feature a call for proposals through an open solicitation in fall 2014.

Year 1 – Launch Projects (Ranked highest priority by Caltrans DOTP):

- 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 1 – Selected Projects (RFP):

- Analysis and Prediction of Spatiotemporal Impact of Traffic Incidents for Better Mobility and Safety in Transportation Systems

- Development of Mirco Wireless Sensor Platforms for Collecting Data of Passenger Freight Interactions
- A Dynamical Framework for Integrating Corridor Management
- Vehicle-to vehicle communications in mixed passenger-freight convoys, etc.
- Smart Truck Drive Assistant:  A Cost Effective Container Delivery of Trucks

Year 2 – Open Solicitation Research Program:

- Open Call For Proposals in Fall 2014
- Review proposals and select research projects in Spring 2015