What is the Center for Transportation Research (CTR)?

CTR is a member of the Tennessee Transportation Advisory Council and the Tennessee Transportation Planning Board. CTR focuses on transportation issues such as planning, traffic safety, railway and inland waterway safety, and transportation economics. CTR's work touches the lives of many people in the Tennessee region and throughout the United States. CTR has a long and successful history of working with federal, state, and local government, business, and industry partners.

What are CTR's strategic goals?

- To conduct a program of research in transportation that is recognized for its excellence, comprehensiveness, innovation, productivity, and national leadership.
- To develop and sustain the technical expertise for high-quality transportation research by the faculty and students within the departments and colleges of the university.
- To serve the transportation research, service, and training needs of state and local government, business, and industry.

CTR Programs & Initiatives

- Tennessee Transportation Assistance Program (TTAP) provides training technical assistance, and technical transfer materials to all cities and counties across Tennessee, helping local roadway agencies with direct technical assistance on highway and traffic engineering issues.
- Traffic Signal Academy promotes best practices in signal timing procedures to help transportation agencies improve benefit-to-cost ratios by operating new or existing systems with greater efficiency.
- Rail courses provide continuing education to the railroad industry in track engineering, infrastructure inspection, security and vulnerability assessment, and infrastructure maintenance.
- Tennessee Vans is a social business enterprise that works with community agencies to meet the mobility needs of transportation disadvantaged citizens in a financially sustainable manner.

International Research Leaders

CTR has a long history of bringing the talents of university faculty, students, and staff together to serve the needs of federal, state, and local government agencies. CTR specializes in technical assistance on highway and transit safety, railway and inland waterway systems, transportation economics, goods movement, transportation planning, traffic demand modeling, and STEM education.

Selected Research Partners

US DOT, FHWA, TTDOT
US Army Corps of Engineers
Beijing Jiaotong University
UT Medical Center
NURail Center

Dr. David B. Clarke, Director
309 Conference Center Building
Knoxville TN 37996-4133
Phone: 865-974-5255
Fax: 865-974-3899
ctr.utk.edu

Who benefits from CTR research?

Everyone—the region, state, and nation—benefits from CTR's programs of research, education, technology transfer, workforce development, training, and community outreach. Our work touches the lives of many by improving safety on our highways; influencing and informing transportation policy; educating drivers on safe practices; advising on regional economic impacts; promoting environmentally sound and sustainable alternatives to move freight; improving personnel safety in roadway work zones; and improving transportation infrastructure.

International Research Leaders

In 2010 CTR began a formal alliance with Beijing Jiaotong Transportation University (BJTU). This agreement established an International Laboratory for Driving Simulator Studies and allows for the exchange of transportation students and faculty between BJTU and University of Tennessee (UT) transportation engineering programs. This alliance also supports publication of the Journal of Transportation Safety & Security (JTSS) and facilitates editorial input from transportation researchers in Asia. JTSS is the product of a winning international partnership between CTR, BJTU, UT, and international academic publisher Taylor & Francis LLC. Until recently, there were limited outlets for publishing research in transportation safety or transportation security. JTSS fills that gap by publishing original research emphasizing multimodal transportation safety issues. It is relevant and timely for educators, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.

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In transportation planning, CTR has the research experience and technical competency to forecast demographic and land use changes that indicate major growth corridors. We develop long-range plans for capital improvement; estimate the effects of proposed transportation system improvements; and develop a financial plan to fund implementation and operation of transportation improvements.

CTR specializes in inland waterway consulting with research in inland waterway, Great Lakes, and deepwater port commercial vessel activity. We are acknowledged authorities in navigation lock operations, river towing fuel efficiency, comparative modal commodity cost and rate analysis, economic impact analysis, and taxation policies. We have worked or consulted on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Tennessee Valley Authority lock feasibility studies and provided testimony for Congress, regulatory agencies, and advisory boards.

CTR is a member of the NURail Research Consortium that seeks to improve and expand rail education, research, workforce development, and technology transfer in the US.