



# ***National Perspective: FTA Research Program***

**Ron Hynes**

*Deputy Associate Administrator for  
Research, Demonstration and Innovation*

**Small Urban & Rural Transportation Center  
North Dakota State University**

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## **FTA Remarks**

- **SURTC's outstanding performance**
- **FTA Strategic Research Plan**
- **SAFETEA-LU highlights**
  - **Rural transportation**
  - **University research**
  - **National Research and Technology**



# **SURTC's outstanding performance**

- **Highly professional approach to university research, education and technology sharing**
  - Carefully planned research agenda
  - Stakeholder involvement and support
  - Consultation with FTA and supporting FTA's strategic research priorities
  - Managing research projects on time, within budget
  - Delivering high quality analysis and clear reports useful for small urban & rural areas



# FTA Strategic Research Plan

- ***FTA Vision***
  - Public Transportation is the Mode of Choice in America
- ***Strategic Research Mission***
  - Deliver Solutions that Improve Public Transportation



# FTA Strategic Research Plan

- *Purpose of FTA Research is to:*
  - Give industry information to make ***good business decisions*** with regard to investment in technology, operating practices and capital facilities (expected ROI)
  - Use results to ***identify best practices*** and share this information with others who can benefit from it
  - Show a range of outcomes, e.g., operating costs, to help decide where we should ***invest our future \$'s***



# **FTA Strategic Research Goals**

- **Increase transit ridership**
- **Improve capital and operating efficiencies**
- **Improve safety and emergency preparedness**
- **Protect the environment and promote energy independence**



# **FTA Strategic Research Objectives Relevant to SURTC**

- **Increase transit ridership**
  - **Develop solutions to provide efficient public transportation services in rural areas**
  - **Improve transportation solutions for specialized populations**



# **FTA Strategic Research Objectives Relevant to SURTC**

- **Improve capital and operating efficiencies**
  - **Improve the capacity of the transit industry and workforce**
  - **Develop methods and technologies to improve transit operational efficiency**
  - **Identify practices and technologies to control capital and operating costs**



# **SAFETEA-LU highlights**

- **Small urban and rural transportation**
- **University transportation research**
- **National Research and Technology**



# **SAFETEA-LU highlights**

- **Small urban and rural transportation**
  - **Greatly increased funding**
    - **From \$251 million in FY 2005 to \$446 million in FY 2006, \$465 million in FY 2007**
  - **Augmented by funds from new Growing and High-Density States allocation**
  - **Federal funds (non-DOT) may be used as local match**
  - **Special provisions for Indian Tribes, intercity bus service, and Federal Lands transportation**



# **SAFETEA-LU highlights**

- **University transportation research**
  - **Increased funding for University Transportation Centers (UTCs)**
    - **FTA \$7 million annually, up from \$6 million**
    - **FHWA \$76.4 million annually, up from \$30 million**
  - **10 National Centers, 10 Regional Centers, 10 Tier I Centers, and 22 Tier II Centers**
  - **All UTCs must support National Strategy for Surface Transportation Research**
    - **Includes FTA's National Research & Technology Program as well as FHWA's**
  - **8 FTA-funded UTCs (replace 4 UTCs in TEA-21)**



# **SAFETEA-LU highlights**

## **FTA-Funded University research**

(millions)

	<b>FY06</b>	<b>FY07</b>	<b>FY08</b>	<b>FY09</b>
<b>University of Tennessee— Knoxville National Transportation Research Center</b>	<b>\$2.0</b>	<b>\$2.0</b>	<b>\$2.0</b>	<b>\$2.0</b>
<b>Texas A&amp;M University—Texas Transportation Institute</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Morgan State University</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Small Urban &amp; Rural Transit Center at North Dakota State University</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>		
<b>University Transportation Center at the University of Alabama</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>0.65</b>



# **SAFETEA-LU highlights**

## **FTA-Funded University research**

(continued)

	<b>FY06</b>	<b>FY07</b>	<b>FY08</b>	<b>FY09</b>
<b>Injury Control Research Center at the University of Alabama Birmingham</b>	<b>0.45</b>	<b>0.45</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.55</b>
<b>Jackson State University Intermodal Transportation Institute at the Jackson State University</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>0.65</b>
<b>University Transportation Center at the University of Denver/Mississippi State University</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>0.65</b>



# **SAFETEA-LU highlights**

- **FTA National Research and Technology**
  - **25 earmarked projects, with projects for 9 universities, and 2 community colleges and a consortium of community colleges in Southern California**



## **FY 2005 Priority Research Projects:**

- **Voluntary industry transit standards development**
- **International Mass Transportation Program**
- **Develop project & construction management guidelines for small projects**
- **Characteristics of Bus Rapid Transit Document**
- **Useful life of transit buses**
- **Hybrid electric vehicle analysis & development**



## **FY 2005 FTA Research Appropriations (millions)**

• <b>National Research Program</b>	<b>\$37.2</b>
– \$16M discretionary	
• <b>Transit Cooperative Research Program</b>	<b>\$8.2</b>
• <b>National Transit Institute</b>	<b>\$4.0</b>
• <b>University Transportation Centers</b>	<b>\$6.0</b>
• <b>Capital Investment Grants</b>	<b>\$7.0</b>
• <b>Non-FTA funds (ITS, Maglev, etc.)</b>	<b>\$35.0</b>
<b>TOTAL ~</b>	<b>\$97.4</b>



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