OUR MISSION: ADVANCING TRANSPORTATION INNOVATION FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) established the John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center (Volpe Center) to serve as a shared federal resource positioned to provide world-renowned, multidisciplinary, multimodal transportation expertise on behalf of U.S. DOT operating administrations, the Office of the Secretary, other federal agencies, and external organizations.

The U.S. DOT Volpe Center is cost reimbursable, receives no direct appropriations, and is 100-percent funded by sponsored projects. For more than 50 years, the U.S. DOT Volpe Center’s extensive partnerships have led to innovative solutions at U.S. DOT and beyond that advance national and global transportation systems for the public good.

OUR PARTNERS

By partnering with key administration officials and U.S. DOT and other federal career leaders, the U.S. DOT Volpe Center maintains a central, cross-cutting role in the Department and with other key stakeholders, adding value through technical excellence, innovation, and a commitment to public service.

Nearly 90 percent of our work is sponsored by U.S. DOT partners. Our mandate to support the transportation enterprise is broad. Remaining projects are sponsored by other federal agencies—including the U.S. Department of Defense, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the U.S. Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, and Homeland Security—and state and local governments and private-sector entities.

OUR IMPACT AND OUR PRIORITIES

As a leader in transportation systems, analysis, technology, and innovation, the U.S. DOT Volpe Center is flexible and responsive to the needs and strategic goals of the U.S. DOT and the priorities of the Secretary of Transportation.

Through a vibrant culture of thought leadership and meaningful engagement in professional and technical organizations, the experts of the U.S. DOT Volpe Center anticipate and address complex challenges and have maintained a sustained impact on advancing national transportation goals.

OUR HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The U.S. DOT Volpe Center provides a valuable historical perspective and institutional memory that is unique within U.S. DOT and the broader transportation community. Our technical experts apply synergies across projects and collaborate to share best practices, lessons learned, findings, and technologies across U.S. DOT and beyond.
**OUR CAPABILITIES**

The U.S. DOT Volpe Center’s wide scope of capabilities helps us develop solutions that impact each of the transportation enterprise’s top priorities.

- **Safety and Security Assessments:** Conducting assessments of safety programs across all modes and developing methods and models to measure the effectiveness of safety initiatives.

- **Applied Data Science:** Using advanced data, image analysis, and visualization tools and methods, to help solve transportation challenges.

- **Economic and Policy Analysis:** Leveraging multimodal policy, economic expertise, and understanding of U.S. DOT and the transportation industry to support policies that achieve U.S. DOT and sponsor goals.

- **Engineering and Technology Deployment to Enhance Transportation:** Performing engineering and safety analyses of civilian and military air, surface, and marine systems and infrastructure to help prepare the nation for future transportation systems.

- **Environmental Analysis, Science, and Engineering:** Analyzing, modeling, measuring, synthesizing, and communicating data to support sustainable, economically efficient, and socially equitable transportation decisions and supporting rulemaking, policies, and resilience initiatives that drive reductions in transportation energy use, emissions, and noise.

- **Systems and Infrastructure Modernization and Optimization:** Improving the safety, health, and efficiency of vehicles, systems, and infrastructure on national and global transportation networks, including business process re-engineering and creation, enhancement, and maintenance of information technology capabilities to support civilian and military missions.

- **Human Factors Research and Design:** Pioneering new relationships between humans and systems, including policies, processes, automation, and technologies, to improve transportation safety, security, and productivity, with due concern for unintended consequences.

- **Impartial Investigations and Program Evaluations:** Providing an objective federal perspective in assessing crashes, data, and research and program effectiveness to inform decision making and future actions.

- **Knowledge Transfer and Capacity Building to Maximize Impact:** Scaling best practices to quickly address new topics and strengthening the capacity of the transportation workforce through education and training.