

A Catalyst for Innovation

The U.S. Department of Transportation (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, and external organizations.

For nearly 50 years, the Volpe Center's extensive cross-modal partnerships have led to innovative solutions that advance national and global transportation systems for the public good.

OUR PRIORITIES

As a federal partner in advancing U.S. DOT initiatives, the Volpe Center draws on its multimodal, multidisciplinary expertise to support the U.S. DOT's priorities:

Safety

Reducing transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries across the transportation system.

Infrastructure

Investing in infrastructure to ensure mobility and accessibility and to stimulate economic growth, productivity, and competitiveness for American workers and businesses.

Innovation

Leading the development and deployment of innovative practices and technologies that improve the safety and performance of the nation's transportation system.

Accountability

Serving the nation with reduced regulatory burden and greater efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability.

OUR IMPACT

As a leader in transportation systems, analysis, and innovation, the 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 a sustained impact on advancing national transportation goals.

OUR HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The Volpe Center provides a valuable historical perspective and institutional memory that is unique within U.S. DOT and the broader transportation community. We seek synergies across projects and work to transfer best practices, lessons learned, findings, and technologies across U.S. DOT and beyond.

OUR PARTNERS

By partnering with key administration and U.S. DOT leaders, the 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.

The Volpe Center is cost reimbursable, receives no direct appropriations, and is 100 percent funded by sponsored projects. 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, NASA, and the U.S. Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, and Homeland Security—and state and local governments and private sector entities..

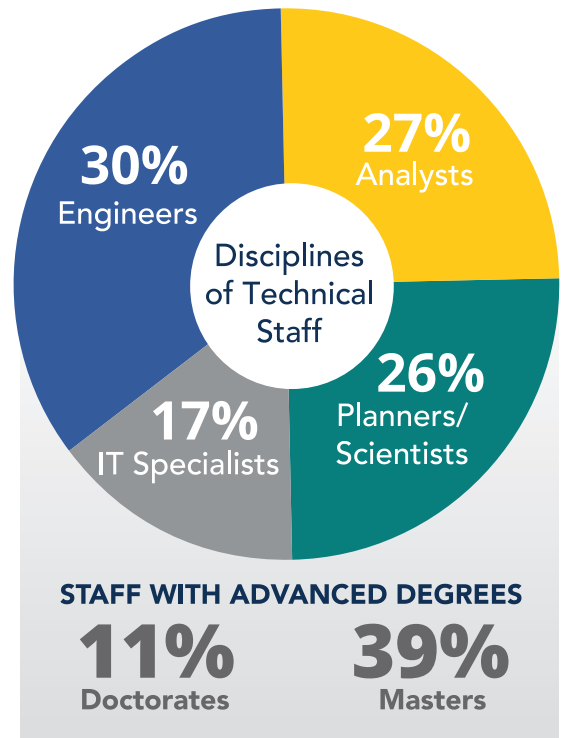
OUR EXPERT WORKFORCE

The Volpe Center calls upon its elite corps of experts and principal technical advisors to develop solutions that shape the nation's transportation systems, technology, and performance.

Our multidisciplinary staff of 580 federal employees work across all modes of transportation, and collaborate with local, state, and federal agencies, academia, and industry.

More than 82 percent of the Volpe Center's federal workforce are technical professionals and half of staff have advanced degrees, including 11 percent who hold doctorates.

One of Cambridge's largest employers, the U.S. DOT Volpe Center supplements its world-class federal team with on-site contractors, access to other off-site subject matter experts, and collaboration with academic neighbors.



OUR CAPABILITIES

The Volpe Center's wide scope of capabilities help us develop solutions that impact each of the U.S. DOT'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 and image analysis, and visualization tools and methods, to help solve transportation challenges.

Human Factors Research and Design

Pioneering new relationships between humans and policies, processes, automation, and technologies, to improve transportation safety, security, and productivity with due concern for unintended consequences.

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.

Systems and Infrastructure Modernization and Optimization

Improving the safety and efficiency of vehicles, systems, and infrastructure on national and global transportation networks.

Engineering and Technology Deployment to Enhance Transportation

Performing engineering and safety analyses of air, surface, and marine systems and infrastructure to help prepare the nation for future transportation systems.

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.