The U.S. DOT Volpe Center

A Catalyst for Innovation

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) established the John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center (Volpe Center) in 1970 to serve as a federal resource positioned to provide world-renowned, multidisciplinary, multimodal transportation expertise on behalf of the U.S. DOT's operating administrations, the Office of the Secretary, and external organizations.

The Volpe Center's extensive cross-modal partnerships have led to innovative solutions that have advanced national and global transportation systems.

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 challenges, and develop solutions that advance the national and global transportation systems.

OUR HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Drawing from 48 years of experience, the Volpe Center provides a valuable historical perspective and institutional memory that is unique within U.S. DOT and the broader transportation community. We continuously 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 sustained 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, and remaining projects are sponsored by state and local governments, private sector entities, and other federal agencies—including the U.S. Department of Defense, NASA, and the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, and Homeland Security.

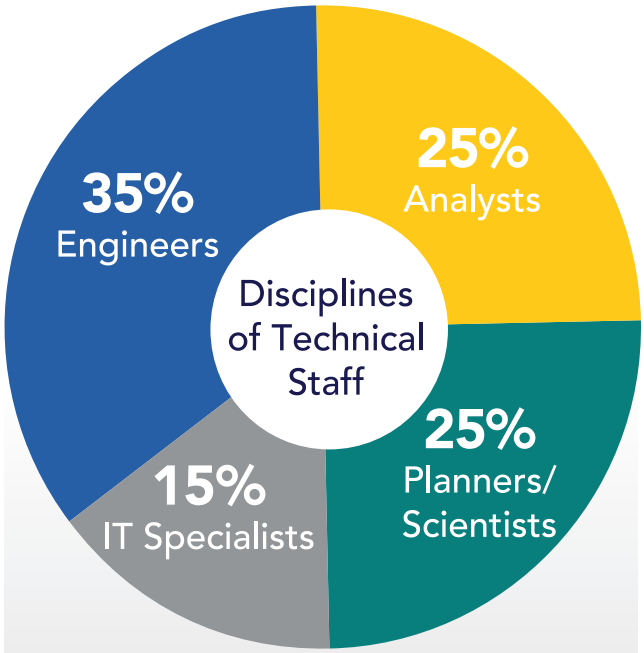
OUR EXPERT WORKFORCE

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

Our multidisciplinary staff of 600 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 13 percent who hold doctorates.

One of Cambridge's largest employers, the U.S. DOT's Volpe Center supplements its world-class federal team with approximately 325 on-site contractors, access to other off-site subject matter experts, and collaboration with our academic neighbors.



STAFF WITH ADVANCED DEGREES

13% Doctorates

36% Masters

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.

Automation
Policy support, communications, survey design and development, analysis, planning, professional capacity building, research, development, deployment, evaluation

Data
Analytics, visualization, GIS mapping

Economic Analysis
Demand forecasting, transportation energy, data, financial, and lifecycle costs, cost-benefit and regulatory analyses, grant analysis and execution, innovative financing, program evaluation

Environmental Measurement and Modeling
Noise, air quality, health impacts from transportation

Field Systems Deployment
Internet applications, environmental compliance and permitting, systems assessment, evaluation of new technologies directly applicable to transportation challenges

Human Factors
Analysis, simulation, testing and evaluation of advanced technology transportation systems, command, control and communications, development of resource and information management systems, operator impairment analysis

Communication, Navigation, and Surveillance
Development and evaluation of air traffic management systems and navigational electronics, analysis and testing of sensor feasibility, applicability, and cost-effectiveness

Policy and Planning
Analysis, survey design

System Resilience
Risk and vulnerability assessments, cybersecurity, emergency management and crash investigation, disaster relief, infrastructure adaptation

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U.S. Department of Transportation
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