



UNIVERSITY TRANSPORTATION CENTER RESEARCH BRIEF

Development of PacTrans Workforce Development Institute - Phase IV

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Background



With support from WSDOT, other transportation agencies, and the former form of the Region 10 University Transportation Center (UTC), the Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) Department at the University of Washington (UW) had operated a very

popular continuing education program called TRANSPEED, which brought transportation engineering's professional training and continuing education to governmental agencies and private firms. It generated huge national influence by conducting 50 workshops annually that serve over 1,400 students. Although the TRANSPEED program was popular and far-reaching, it was badly hit by the most recent financial crisis.

However, with the recent technology development and applications in transportation practice, such as Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAVs), smart cities technologies, the demand for continuing education and workforce development is getting even stronger. In order to fulfill the gap, in 2016, a new dialog started between transportation agencies and PacTrans to re-establish a new workforce development program to address the critical workforce development needs of transportation agencies and companies in the Pacific Northwest.

Research Project

To gain a better understanding of the existing training or professional development needs within Region 10 (i.e., Idaho, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington), the research team conducted qualitative, structured interviews with transportation engineers, managers, and learning coordinators, and synthesized the findings to generate an online survey tool for broader distribution. In addition, the research team designed the administrative structure and business model that ensure sustainability, efficiency, and quality of the proposed program, and the collaboration with existing programs in Region 10. The research team is currently in the process of launching the workforce development institute through delivering training courses/

programs to working professionals in Region 10. Specifically, the research team will focus on the following tasks:

- Adding new courses/certificate programs and improving the existing education platform. The team is developing an online training platform and include new training courses and certificate programs that cover more topics with critical training needs. In addition, the research team will integrate previous education research products into the education platform and evaluate various methods for the delivery of training services.
- Improving assessment and evaluation processes for training courses and the overall program of the PacTrans WDI. The research team proposes to develop a guidebook including course development processes with carefully designed learning outcomes and associated learning activities, active learning strategies, reliable assessment and evaluation processes of learning, and overall program and course evaluation.
- Outreach and marketing plan of the PacTrans WDI. In order to make the institute sustainable, the research team proposes to develop the effective outreach and marketing plan to help to develop long-term collaboration with existing connections and explore new opportunities with local DOTs and other transportation.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

The research team consists of one member from each of our five consortium research partner institutions.

ABOUT THE FUNDERS

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EXPECTED DATE OF COMPLETION

August 2022

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://depts.washington.edu/pactrans/research/projects/development-of-pactrans-workforce-development-institute-phase-iv/>