



WTI

Western Transportation  
INSTITUTE

## Rural Matters

70% of the American road network is rural.  
Now that's close to home.



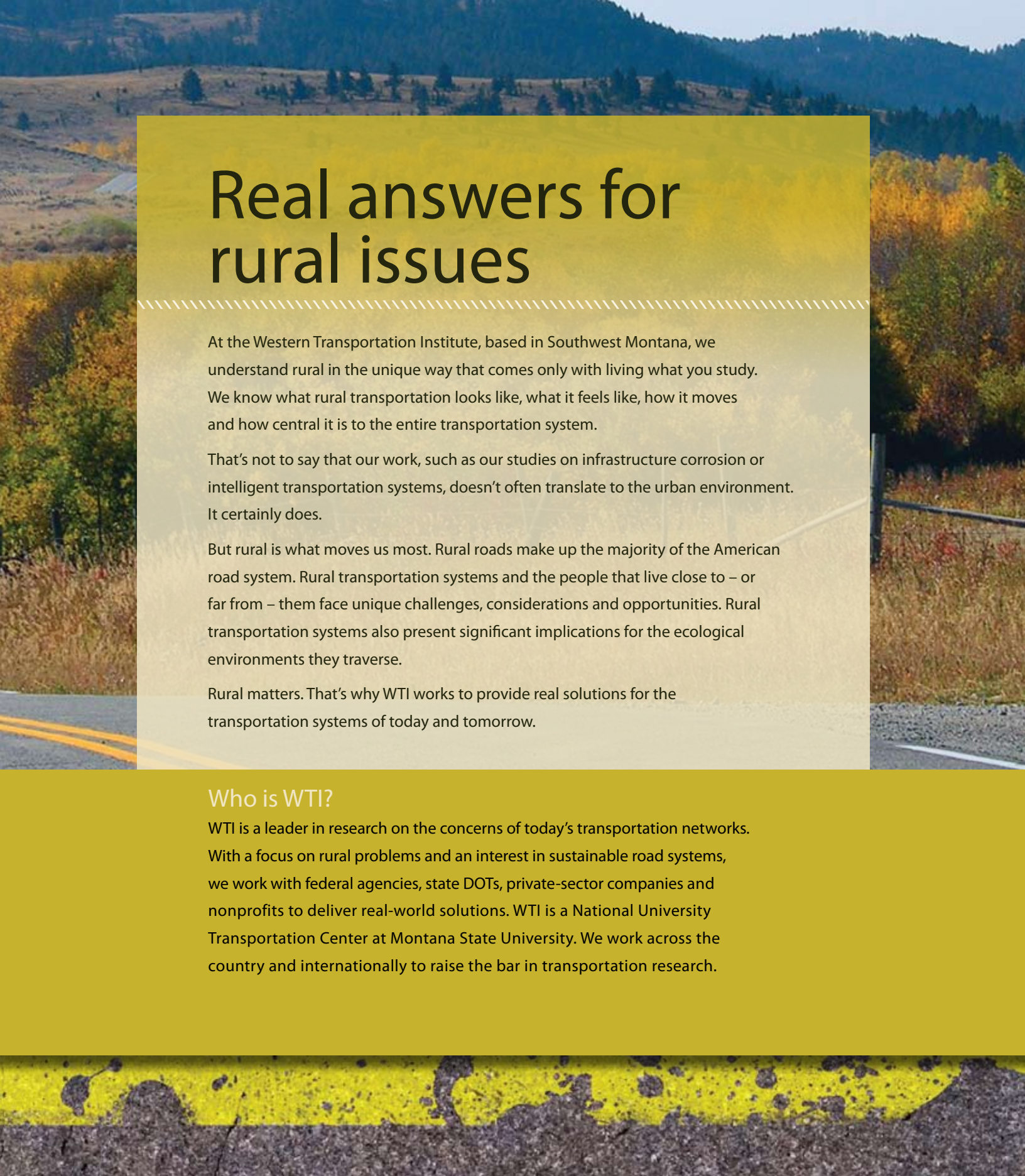


## Leading the way in sustainability

As the global consciousness increasingly focuses on sustainability across the facets of daily life, the transportation industry is beginning to recognize the need to green the field. Some of WTI's current and past sustainability projects include studies on the use of recycled materials in road construction and creating wildlife crossing structures to prevent animal-vehicle collisions. Currently our green research is laying the foundation for what will become the new standard in sustainable design, construction and technology.







# Real answers for rural issues

At the Western Transportation Institute, based in Southwest Montana, we understand rural in the unique way that comes only with living what you study. We know what rural transportation looks like, what it feels like, how it moves and how central it is to the entire transportation system.

That's not to say that our work, such as our studies on infrastructure corrosion or intelligent transportation systems, doesn't often translate to the urban environment. It certainly does.

But rural is what moves us most. Rural roads make up the majority of the American road system. Rural transportation systems and the people that live close to – or far from – them face unique challenges, considerations and opportunities. Rural transportation systems also present significant implications for the ecological environments they traverse.

Rural matters. That's why WTI works to provide real solutions for the transportation systems of today and tomorrow.

## Who is WTI?

WTI is a leader in research on the concerns of today's transportation networks. With a focus on rural problems and an interest in sustainable road systems, we work with federal agencies, state DOTs, private-sector companies and nonprofits to deliver real-world solutions. WTI is a National University Transportation Center at Montana State University. We work across the country and internationally to raise the bar in transportation research.





## WTI integrates expertise from eight research areas

### » Safety and Operations

The Safety and Operations program finds sustainable solutions for improving rural highway safety and operations in key areas including human factors in driving accidents on rural highways and integration of rural ITS.

### » Winter Maintenance and Effects

Through innovation and multi-disciplinary partnerships, the Winter Maintenance and Effects program researches corrosion effects on transportation systems in order to mitigate challenges and concerns. Our problem-driven research emphasizes the development and evaluation of winter maintenance materials, technologies and systems to aid in best practices and decision making.

### » Road Ecology

WTI's Road Ecology program provides national leadership in understanding the interaction between roads, natural resources and the ecological environment. The solutions we develop and implement address concerns of road ecology including wildlife migration near highways and animal-vehicle collisions.

### » Infrastructure Maintenance and Materials

With progressive research and innovative thinking, the Infrastructure Maintenance and Materials program improves the design and maintenance of rural highway infrastructure. Rural transportation agencies need new solutions to increase infrastructure longevity and to ensure that new designs are adequate to meet increasing demands.



# Seeing challenges through a wider lens

Rural transportation networks are more than just sections of infrastructure that connect one place to the next. They're population drivers. They're economic engines. They're community generators.

That's why our team of researchers looks at more than a single piece of an issue. We start by finding solutions to a problem – then we step back and take another, broader look. Do the solutions create unintended consequences? Can they be reworked to solve other issues as well? What other insight and knowledge can we add?

WTI has eight individual areas of expertise staffed by researchers who are leaders in their fields. They work together to offer clients and sponsors a holistic approach to research. Whatever the project, whatever the considerations, we never settle for a narrow view.

## » Systems Engineering Development and Integration

Our Systems Engineering Development and Integration program advances rural transportation with its research on integrating hardware, software and communication systems into rural transportation systems. We analyze, engineer and develop solutions by utilizing numerous technologies such as Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).

## » Mobility and Public Transportation

WTI's Mobility and Public Transportation program provides a comprehensive approach to the issues facing rural transit agencies. We focus on offering research, outreach and education/training for concerns such as rural public transportation and rural mobility. We also facilitate rural transportation coordination among stakeholders.

## » Logistics and Freight Management

With a comprehensive approach to researching economics and rural transportation, the Logistics and Freight Management program solves the problems of timely and cost-effective management of freight, inventory and transportation assets.

## » Transportation Planning and Economics

Our Transportation Planning and Economics program assists implementers and policy makers in the creation of more sustainable rural transportation systems by researching the impacts of and relationships between transportation, land use, planning and policy and economies.





Rural is  
what moves us







# Research, relationships, results

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From California to Canada, WTI research is shaping transportation networks across the United States and beyond. We do much of our work in WTI's well-equipped, advanced laboratories on the Montana State University campus in Bozeman and in satellite offices in other cities and states. But we also believe in spending time in the field gathering information or implementing research results.

We work with a variety of clients and sponsors including government agencies, such as state departments of transportation and federal entities. WTI serves private-sector businesses and can act as a subcontractor on large projects. We also conduct research for nonprofit organizations and foundations.

WTI builds dynamic relationships not just with – and between – its clients and sponsors, but also with other research organizations. We partner with universities, consortiums and other groups to further the field of transportation research.

If rural is what matters to you,  
then WTI is your partner.





# Streamline your research

WTI works with all types of clients, sponsors and partners to conduct relevant, contemporary research, particularly on projects requiring expertise on rural issues and sustainable solutions. Contact us to find out how to put WTI to work for you and fast-track your research needs.

Contact info:  
Director Steve Albert  
[stevea@coe.montana.edu](mailto:stevea@coe.montana.edu)

Western Transportation Institute  
Montana State University  
P.O. Box 174250  
Bozeman, MT 59717-4250

Tel: (406) 994-6114  
Fax: (406) 994-1697

[WesternTransportationInstitute.org](http://WesternTransportationInstitute.org)

