

## Program Progress Performance Report for University Transportation Centers

Submitted To: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Federal Grant Number: 69A3551747122

Project Title: Tier 1 University Transportation Center  
Small Urban, Rural and Tribal Center on Mobility (SURTCOM)

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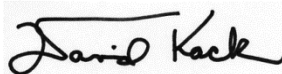
Recipient Organization: Montana State University  
Bozeman, MT 59717

Project Grant Period: November 30, 2016 – September 30, 2022

Reporting Period End Date: May 31, 2017

Report Term: PPPR #1

Signature:



## 1. Accomplishments

### What are the major goals and objectives of the program?

The mission of the Small Urban, Rural and Tribal Center on Mobility (SURTCOM) is to conduct research and provide leadership, education, workforce development and technology transfer in all transportation-related aspects of mobility for people and goods, focusing specifically on small urban, rural and tribal areas. Montana State University (MSU) is the lead institution, with consortium members including Eastern Washington University (EWU) and North Dakota State University (NDSU).

### What was accomplished under these goals?

During the 1<sup>st</sup> six-month period (December 2016 - May 2017) of the Center:

- The Director (David Kack), Deputy Director (Jill Hough), and Associate Director (Rowena Yeahquo) attended the 2017 TRB Annual Meeting and discussed moving ahead with the Center. It is important to note that the Center received notice of its award at the end of November/beginning of December (2016).
- Eastern Washington University (Northwest Tribal Technical Assistance Program) hosted the 2017 Northwest Region Tribal Transportation Symposium. Two staff members from Montana State University (David Kack and Jay Otto), and one staff member from North Dakota State University (Rob Lynch) participated in the Symposium (March 6-9, 2017).
- The Western Transportation Institute (WTI) at MSU began working with the Montana Manufacturing Extension Center at MSU (MMEC) on a small project to look at logistics (freight/shipping/warehousing) issues in a quickly growing rural community.
- WTI/MSU also began a small exploratory research project (literature review) looking at freight issues in small urban, rural and tribal areas.

### What opportunities for training and professional development has the program provided?

- Two staff members from WTI/MSU and one staff member from SURTC/NDSU traveled to Spokane, Washington to participate in, and present at, the 2017 Northwest Region Tribal Transportation Symposium (March 2017; Spokane, WA). The Symposium was hosted by NWTAP/EWU.

### How have the results been disseminated? If so, in what ways?

- No projects have been completed, yet.

### What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals and objectives?

- Staff from MSU and NDSU will be attending the UTC mid-year meeting in Buffalo, NY.
- Staff from MSU, EWU and NDSU will be meeting with staff from USDOT/OST-R in Bozeman in July to discuss the UTC program and responsibilities/requirements.
- Projects will begin based on the SURTCOM UTC proposal.

## 2. Products

### Publications, conference papers and presentations

- David Kack (MSU) presented *Livability and the Connection Between Housing and Transportation* at the Northwest Region Tribal Transportation Symposium (March 2016).
- Jay Otto (MSU) and Margo Hill (EWU) presented on *Creating Safety Culture in Tribal Communities* at the Northwest Region Tribal Transportation Symposium (March 2016).
- Rob Lynch (NDSU) presented both *Performance Measures for Public Transportation Agencies*; and *Financial Management for Transit Operators* at the Northwest Region Tribal Transportation Symposium (March 2016).
- Dick Winchell (EWU) presented *Power to Plan: Tribal Sovereign National and State & Local Planning*; and *Smart Streets* at the Northwest Region Tribal Transportation Symposium (March 2016).

### Website(s) or other Internet site(s)

- SURTCOM Website initiated ([www.surtcom.org](http://www.surtcom.org))

### Technologies or techniques

Nothing to Report

### Inventions, patent applications, and/or licenses

Nothing to Report

### Other products, such as data or databases, physical collections, audio or video products

Nothing to Report

## 3. Participants & Collaborating Organizations

### What organizations have been involved as partners?

- As noted, Eastern Washington University and North Dakota State University are partners/collaborators in SURTCOM.
- The Montana Manufacturing Extension Center is partnering on some exploratory research concerning freight issues in small urban, rural and tribal areas.
- Once the Center is fully initiated, additional partners will be added.

### Have other collaborators or contacts been involved?

Not to this point, although it is anticipated that additional collaborators and contacts will be involved once the Center begins full implementation.

## 4. Impact

### The development of the principal discipline(s) of the project

The main goal of SURTCOM is to enhance mobility of both people and goods in small urban, rural and tribal areas. Through our research and other activities, we hope to:

- increase access to opportunities that promote equity and provide ladders of opportunity through mobility, and
- implement innovative multi-modal solutions, including implementing services that affect modal shifts.

Our activities will also include efforts to: implement smart cities innovations, increase active transportation modes, and address mobility issues on Federal lands.

Other disciplines

Nothing to Report

The development of human resources

Nothing to Report

Physical, institutional, and information resources at the university and/or other partner institution

Nothing to Report

Technology transfer (include transfer of results to entities in government or industry, adoption of new practices, or instances where research has led to the initiation of a startup company)

Nothing to Report

Society beyond science and technology

Nothing to Report

**5. Changes/Problems**

Changes in approach and reasons for change

Nothing to Report

Actual or anticipated problems or delays and actions or plans to resolve them

Nothing to Report

Changes that have a significant impact on expenditures

Nothing to Report

Significant changes in use or care of human subjects, vertebrate animals, and/or biohazards

Nothing to Report

Change of primary performance site location from that originally proposed

Nothing to Report

**6. Special Reporting Requirements**

Not Applicable