

Project	<i>New Tech, New Skills, New Jobs</i>
J-11/Task 46	
Research Field:	Special Projects
Allocation:	\$100,000
TCRP Staff:	Dianne Schwager

Automation J-11 gave us information on how the automation of transit vehicles would impact the transit industry workforce. Other technological advances in the transit industry have the potential to impact the workforce as well and require the transit workforce to take on new skills. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) has dramatically increased funding for low- and no-emission buses. Communication technologies like 5G will enable vehicle communication, more information for transit customers, and improved data availability. Fare technology will continue to advance and incorporate elements of mobile technology.

Public transit agencies will need a future-ready workforce to make the most of these technological advances.

The objective of this research is to identify new and changing skill sets and jobs in the transit industry that will be arriving in the coming decade. The study should address the following:

- Technological advancements happening in the transit industry in the coming years;
- New skillsets that will be required of existing jobs due to new technologies;
- New job types that may emerge;
- What investments will be needed in training to adapt to changing job requirements;
- What sources of funding are available for industry training programs;
- Ways in which the industry can partner with non-transit organizations to reach workers with the required skills; and
- Apprenticeships, school programs, or other programs that could be used to train potential workers.

Transit Cooperative Research Program

FY 2023

Announcement of Transit Research Projects and Project Panel Nominations December 2022

The Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) undertakes research and other technical activities in response to the needs of the public transportation industry on a variety of problems involving operations, service configuration, engineering, maintenance, human resources, administration, policy, and planning.

The TCRP is a partnership of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA); the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, acting through the Transportation Research Board (TRB); and the American Public Transportation Association (APTA).

The TCRP Oversight and Project Selection (TOPS) Commission, the governing board for the program, recently selected projects for the Fiscal Year 2023 program. The announcement is to inform the research community of these projects and to solicit project panel nominations.

Announcement of Transit Research Projects

This announcement contains problem statements that are preliminary descriptions of the selected projects. Detailed Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for these projects are expected to be released starting in late April/ May 2023.

Each project statement will be announced via email. A process to register for email

notifications of RFPs is available at <http://www.trb.org/tcrp>. RFPs will be posted on the same website when they are active.

The TCRP is an applied, contract research program with the objective of developing near-term solutions to problems facing the public transportation industry. Proposals should show evidence of strong capabilities gained through extensive, successful experiences. Any research agency interested in submitting a proposal should first make a frank and thorough self-appraisal to determine whether it possesses the capability and experience necessary to ensure successful completion of the project. The specifications for preparing proposals are quite strict and are set forth in the brochure entitled *Information and Instructions for Preparing Proposals*, available on the website referenced above. Proposals will be rejected if they are not prepared in strict conformance with the section entitled “Instructions for Preparing and Submitting Proposals.”

Project Panel Nominations for New Projects

The TOPS Commission met on November 4, 2022, and approved new research projects for the Fiscal Year 2023. Click [here](#) or see below for the preliminary descriptions of the FY 2023 research projects. It is requested that you nominate individuals with expertise

directly relevant to the research proposed, and we would particularly welcome your help in identifying women and minority candidates. Your nominations would be appreciated as soon as possible, **but no later than Friday, February 3, 2023**, so that we may move the program forward in a timely manner. We will begin the panel formation process shortly thereafter.

Nominations received after February 3, 2023, will not be guaranteed full consideration in the panel formation process.

To ensure proper consideration of your panel nominations, we need information on each nominee's affiliation, title, address, approximate age, and, most importantly, professional qualifications related to the particular project. Individuals will be contacted to determine their interest in serving after we have matched available expertise with that required by the nature of the project. Those interested in serving on a specific project oversight panel should complete a nomination form by going to [MyTRB](#).

Panels for the new research projects are scheduled to meet during late April/May 2023. Panel members are prohibited from submitting or participating in the preparation of proposals on projects under their jurisdiction. Members serve on the panels without compensation but are reimbursed for travel and subsistence expenses. In many cases, three meetings are held in the life of a project, and these normally occur in Washington, D.C. Meetings may be held in

person or virtually, depending on the preference of the Senior Program Officer and current guidance from city, state, and federal officials.

Meetings

The first meeting is to develop a project statement that is used to solicit proposals; the second meeting is to select a research organization from among those submitting proposals. Other meetings may be dictated by project circumstances; however, they are few and usually at least a year apart. Each panel will comprise approximately eight members. Panels operate under the guidance of a permanent chair, and there is liaison representation from the FTA, APTA, and TRB; the TCRP staff serves as the secretariat.

We are grateful for your ongoing support of the TCRP in providing nominees. Typically, nominees for panels in the Cooperative Research Programs outnumber the available positions by about four to one. As a result, we have been able to establish panels truly outstanding in their ability to play a fundamental role in the accomplishment of successful research.

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