

2017 UDOT RESEARCH PROBLEM STATEMENT

*** *Problem statement deadline is March 5, 2017. Submit statements to Vincent Liu at vlou@utah.gov. ****

Title: Rest Areas for the 21st Century

No. (office use): 17.02.02

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UDOT Champion (suggested): Tim Ularich

Select ONE Subject Area Materials/Pavements Maintenance Traffic Mgmt/Safety Structures/Geotechnical
 Preconstruction Planning Data Analytics Public Transportation

1. Describe the problem to be addressed:

The traveling public is continually evolving with changes in technology. Today's drivers rely upon wireless communication for everything from keeping up with business to identifying good hotels to stay at. Our rest areas have not changed much in the past few decades, from their core function as a restroom break.

Is there value to offering new features such as electric car charging stations, Internet access (WiFi), Idle Free truck zones (provide electric plug in for them).

What benefits are there to our other safety programs by encouraging the public to use the Rest Areas as "safe phone zones"?

2. Explain why this research is important:

This will help identify potential services that can add value and safety to the traveling public.

3. List the research objective(s):

1. Determine what the state of practice is Nationally.
2. Determine what the potential is for expanded service at our rest areas.
3. Make Recommendations for upgraded services.
4. Determine what potential grants and sources of funding may be available.

4. List the major tasks:

1. Literature search, state DOT survey.
2. Inventory current rest areas and their electrical and communication capacities (is there power, is there internet)
- 3.

5. List the expected results:

List of recommended service upgrades and tangible and intangible benefits of those upgrades on safety, user satisfaction and other performance measures.

6. Describe how the research results will be implemented:

The recommendations will be considered as a platform from which to select and prioritize projects for adoption. This may include grant applications and pursuing alternative sources of funding. This research will be the "baseline" measure and plan for implementation.

7. Requested from UDOT: \$15,000.00
(or UTA for Public Transportation)

Other/Matching Funds: \$

Total Cost: \$

8. Outline the proposed schedule, including start and major event dates:

1. Finalize research statement FY2018
2. Identify principle research team
3. Research team proposes final schedule for review
4. Implement. Fall FY2019