Florida Department of Transportation TSM&O Workforce Analysis



Research Showcases to Identify Gaps/Solutions

- 2018 Research Showcase
 - The State Traffic Engineering and Operations Office (STEOO) conducted its **first Research Showcase** in the FDOT Central Office August 15-16, 2018.
 - Brought Florida's research universities together and highlighted the ongoing research, mainly on Transportation Systems Management & Operations (TSM&O), Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), and Traffic Operations.
- 2019 Research Showcase
 - The next Showcase is planned for April 11-12, 2019, at the FDOT Gainesville Materials Office.
 - The focus will be on Emerging Technologies, Connected and Automated (CAV) Vehicles, TSM&O, ITS, and Traffic Operations.
 - Planned discussion topics: workforce development, preparing students for careers in TSM&O, ITS, and CAV; interdisciplinary research; and partnering and outreach.



Workforce Gap Analysis and Current Needs

- Gaps exist with regard to project implementation and deployments.
- Institutions could re-evaluate the course curriculum.
- In addition to Academics, Fieldwork and hands-on experience should be emphasized in the following areas:
 - Traffic signal systems and traffic signal controller functions
 - ITS equipment design, construction, operations, and maintenance
 - Construction engineering and inspection
 - Project and contract management, work program, and financial management
- Entry-level engineers need both technical and managerial inputs.
- Training should emphasize practical applications.
- Transportation is interdisciplinary; requiring soft skills, as well as specialized functions, such as in a Traffic Management Center (TMC) with networking/soft skills.



Opportunities to Bridge the Gaps

- Create a platform to share knowledge FDOT conducts Research
 Showcases and explains to the institutes/faculty about the current FDOT and ITS and industry workforce development opportunities
- Capture knowledge and experience through webinars, workshops, etc.
- Develop sustainable training program initiatives the Florida
 Department of Transportation (FDOT) created a TSM&O training program (STEP).
- FDOT participates in and contributes to Peer Exchanges, Pooled Fund Studies, etc.



Focus Areas For Professional Capacity Building

TSM&O Mainstreaming

Freeway Management

Arterial Management

Connected Vehicles

Express Lanes

Systems Engineering

- Workforce development may focus on these areas.
- FDOT Central Office (CO) works closely with the districts to provide training and other opportunities.
- Institutes and faculty are informed about these focus areas.
- Research projects emphasize implementation of the results.
- Lessons learned from deployments help with on-the-job training.



University Engagement and Partnerships

- Universities are encouraged to participate in the implementation and evaluation of projects while working with the districts and the CO.
- Research results should have statewide usage:
 - The Central Office promotes inter-university collaboration.
 - Aids in knowledge sharing among districts through research.
- Emerging CAV technology projects should consider industry interactions.
- Attendees made several recommendations covering a range of topics:
 - Project selection and management.
 - Avoid project duplication and exchange information.
 - Collaboration on various research scopes.



TSM&O Strategic Plan, CAV Business Plan

- FDOT's CAV Business Plan emphasizes:
 - Education and Outreach regarding emerging technologies
 - Industry Outreach technology readiness and partnerships
- The CAV Business Plan recognizes the need for partnerships with the industry to leverage Research & Development for successful deployments.
- The FDOT's TSM&O Strategic Plan recognizes the need for workforce development both internal and external to FDOT.
- These plans leverage district participation to engage with local stakeholders including Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).



Statewide TSM&O Excellence Program (STEP)

- Statewide TSM&O Excellence Program (STEP)
 - Goal is to build technical capabilities in TSM&O.
 - Florida specific courses available for the FDOT, Local Agencies, Consultants, Contractors, etc.
 - Describes plan for sustainable training delivery and management through the University of Florida.





STEP Training Updates

Course Topic	Development	District Review	Script Review	Approval	СВТ
MFES	\checkmark	✓	✓	✓	0
CCTV	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
MVDS	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	•
DMS	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	•
RWIS	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	0
Traffic Signals	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Fiber Design	\checkmark	N/A	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Systems Engineering 101	•	O	0	O	0
ITS FM Viewer	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
ITS FM Maintainer	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark

Table Key: O = Activity Planned; \odot = Activity in progress; \checkmark = Activity complete; N/A = Not Applicable

STEP Training Access

Learning Curve

- ITSFM Viewer
- ITSFM Maintainer
- Traffic Signal Training
- Fiber Design for ITS and Signalization Projects
- ITS CEI: Closed Circuit Television Cameras Module

TEO Website

- Traffic Signal Training
- Fiber Design for ITS and Signalization Projects
- ITS CEI: Closed Circuit Television Cameras Module