



**Pennsylvania Transportation Institute**

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July 26, 2007

Mr. Calvin E. Roberts  
Engineer of Traffic and Safety  
Traffic and Safety Division  
Michigan Department of Transportation  
State Transportation Building  
425 West Ottawa Street  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Mr. Roberts:

John Mason asked that I provide some information to you about PTI's partnerships with PennDOT. As program coordinator for PTI, I am the single-point-of-contact for PennDOT and am involved in all aspects of our activities with them. Currently, PTI has two contracts with PennDOT to conduct research, education, and technology transfer activities. Guiding principles for each of these contracts are enclosed.

Our most recent contract is the \$25 million, five-year Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) that was initiated in November 2006. Projects funded under this contract tend to be large, multi-year projects and are selected and funded solely by PennDOT to meet the needs of their research agenda. This contract was initiated to provide a greater range of services and expertise to PennDOT than could be provided through the PennDOT/MAUTC Partnership.

The PennDOT/MAUTC Partnership is a five year, \$2.5 million contract initiated in February 2005 to support our federally-funded university transportation center (UTC). Under this contract, PennDOT and MAUTC jointly fund projects that fit within our UTC theme. PennDOT funds help fulfill the USDOT's requirement of a 1:1 match of non-federal dollars. These projects tend to be 18 months or less, rarely exceed \$150,000, and must provide at least one graduate assistantship. Start dates generally coincide with the beginning of a semester so that students are fully funded. Both PennDOT engineers and PTI faculty propose projects, which are then selected by a steering committee comprised of PennDOT's Research and Planning Office staff and PTI faculty and staff.

One of the keys to these successful partnerships is communication. PennDOT's program staff and technical advisors hold individual monthly conference calls with each principal investigator

(PI), and PIs each provide a monthly progress report prior to the conference calls that can be used to set agendas. In addition, as coordinator for these contracts, I talk almost daily with my counterpart at PennDOT. The steering committee has monthly conference calls to discuss any larger issues that may come up and to establish policies. Our first annual "Technical Exchange" with PennDOT this September will bring together Penn State faculty and researchers and PennDOT engineers and staff to find the crossroad where PennDOT's needs and Penn State's expertise intersect. The results of this exchange will help set and prioritize PennDOT's research, education, or technology transfer activities.

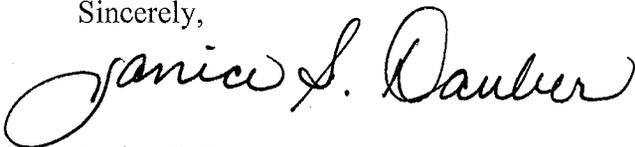
Prior to the current PennDOT/MAUTC Partnership and the IGA, we conducted projects for PennDOT under the "Cooperative Agreement" (1998-2003) and through PennDOT's Invitation to Qualify (ITQ).

The Cooperative Agreement was a five year, \$15 million contract to administer and conduct university-based research, education, and technology transfer projects for PennDOT, which was built on two previous highly successful partnerships (1993 and 1997). Through the Cooperative Agreement, PennDOT was able to secure expertise from Pennsylvania colleges and universities and others throughout the region. PTI established a management team and served as a single point of contact between PennDOT and all the universities conducting projects. When appropriate, the PennDOT funding was used to provide a match to our UTC funds.

Under PennDOT's ITQ, PTI submitted a proposal in which we identified our expertise in operational areas defined by PennDOT. Based on our proposal, we were then qualified by PennDOT to competitively bid on Requests for Quotations (RFQ) for specific projects. The ITQ was open to consultants and universities.

Please contact me or John if we can provide any further information. John would be glad to visit when he's in the area to further discuss our partnerships with PennDOT.

Sincerely,



Janice S. Dauber  
Program Coordinator

Enclosures

c: J. Mason