

Request for Proposal for Educational Institution to Participate as a Host Site in the National Summer Transportation Institute (NSTI) 2026 Program

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is accepting applications from educational institutions to participate as a host site in the National Summer Transportation Institute (NSTI) 2026 Program.

The NSTI is a key component among MDOT educational initiatives. The NSTI program is a Science, Technology and Math (STEM) focused program for high school and junior high/middle school students. It is administered by accredited colleges, community colleges and universities, Tribal Colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Minority Serving Institutions, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Asian-American Native American Pacific Island Serving Institutions throughout the United States, District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Pacific Island territories and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The objective of the NSTI program is to provide middle and high school students, minority youth, young women, and disadvantaged individuals with an awareness of careers in the transportation industry and to encourage them to take transportation-related courses of study in their higher education pursuits. Host sites are required to commit significant resources and time to classroom involvement and participation. The length of the program is typically 2-4 consecutive weeks. Host sites may carry out student day programs or carry through with comprehensive residential overnight programs in which room and board are provided by the Host Sites to the students.

The NSTI should focus on critical and systematic educational endeavors that will explore all aspects of the transportation industry and its role in our society. It should present a curriculum that introduces participants to the diverse modes of transportation, as well as career opportunities that exist in the transportation industry.

A successful NSTI program requires a cooperative effort among federal, state and local transportation agencies, community-based organizations (CBOs), educational institutions and the private sector. Therefore, each NSTI is encouraged to establish an Intermodal Advisory Committee (IAC) and select members from a broad spectrum of the transportation community. The IAC is encouraged to assist with reviewing the SOW, curriculum, and budgets and should help plan programs, secure resources (i.e. speakers, field trips, transportation partners, and sponsors), and provide technical assistance. Although the IAC may not make policy, it may serve in an advisory capacity and as a resource to the host site. The FHWA, State Transportation Agencies (STAs), Division, CBOs, and private industry may assist as members of the IAC. The Project Director is encouraged to convene a meeting of the IAC no later than six weeks prior to the start date of NSTI. Minutes of all meetings should be filed and made available to the STAs, the Division, and HCR upon request. The NSTI is typically implemented over a two- to four-week period and must have a minimum of 15 participants. The curriculum must be STEM focused and may be developed in coordination with the STA and Division. A maximum of \$50,000 will be awarded for the selected program.

Program Objectives

1. Deliver STEM curriculum.
2. Provide awareness to middle school and high school students about transportation modal careers.
3. Encourage students to consider transportation careers and related courses of study in their higher education pursuits.
4. Host Sites must commit significant resources and time to classroom instruction (realistic preview of college courses in engineering, computer sciences, math, and construction management material, etc.).
5. Invoice and MDOT demographic report needed within 30 days of end of program, and no later than August 31, 2026.
6. The work for NSTI is overseen by the State DOTs who are responsible for providing technical assistance, guidance, training, and support participating institutions host sites.

Eligibility

Any accredited academic institution of higher education (college/university) may submit a proposal to serve as a host site for this program.

Proposal Process

Accredited academic institutions of higher education (college/university) must complete and submit their packages by Friday, March 16, 2026.

Proposal Package

[NSTI 2026 Application](#)

[NSTI 2026 Budget](#)

MDOT Participant Report

[Host Site Participant Report to MDOT](#)

Resources

[NSTI Program Desk Reference](#)

[NSTI FAQs](#)

Contact

For more information, contact STEM Outreach Coordinator Nathan Hanselman at 517-243-4010 or HanselmanN@Michigan.gov.