



RESEARCH NEED STATEMENT

Call for Projects 2015

Project Research Title: Truck Parking on Ramps

TDOT Sponsor Director: Phillip B. Freeze

List TDOT Research Team Lead: Michael L. Tugwell

List TDOT Research Team Members: Jason Oldham, Michelle Powell, Maintenance Division Rep, Design Division Rep, Long Range Planning Division Rep, Brian Hurst

1. Define the problem or research requested. What is the goal/objective of the research?

Truck parking on interstate ramps has become a nationwide issue. The Tennessee Legislature continues to debate the issue of allowing trucks to park on the ramps; particularly, the on ramps. Questions of safety, maintenance, and lack of available off-site parking continually arise. The goal of this research is to determine the amount of available off-site parking vs. the available ramp parking and what safety, maintenance, and operational issues it poses.

2. Is this research a continuation of a past or present project?

No Yes

If yes, provide current research project title, RES # and reason for the project continuation.

3. Describe anticipated benefits/expected deliverables.

Expected deliverables would show whether sufficient off-site parking is available and if not, how many additional parking spaces would be created utilizing the ramps and whether the benefits of additional spaces offsets the safety, maintenance, and operational issues that may result

4. What is your timeline for completion of the research?

6 months

5. List the anticipated tasks for this research.

Review current and past literature concerning this issue. Count available off-site parking spaces and their vacancies during peak parking hours. Determine which ramps are potential candidates for parking and how many spaces they create. Outline the benefits and negatives of allowing parking on Tennessee interstate ramps

6. Describe how the project results will be implemented?

The research will be used to assist the Department and the Legislature in determining if and how ramp parking may be allowed.

7. Will this study produce software, web page or other technology that will involve the Information Technology Division?

No Yes, please describe:

8. Will training be provided to employees as a result of this research?

No Yes, please describe:

9. Will this research involve equipment or materials purchase?

No Yes, please describe:

10. Research must support the Long Range Transportation Plan Policy Recommendations **and/or** TDOT Operational Goals and/or Strategic Initiative. *(See attachments for additional information)*

Please indicate which categories the research will support:

Transportation Long Range Plan Policy Recommendations

(A) Accessibility

(B) Safety, Security, and Transportation Resilience

(C) Coordination, Cooperation, and Consultation

(D) Demographic and Employment Changes and Trends

(E) Freight Logistics and Planning

(F) Financial

(G) Mobility

(H) Travel Trends and System Performance

TDOT Operational Goals and/or Strategic Initiative

(A) Deliver transportation projects on schedule and within budget

(B) Maintain the state transportation system to protect the long term investment in our infrastructure assets

(C) Operate and manage Tennessee's transportation system to provide a high level of safety and service to our customers and workers

(D) Expanding mobility choices to maximize access

(E) Dramatically change the paradigm for delivery of transportation products and service to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Tennessee's transportation network

11. Please explain how the research supports the Long Range Transportation Plan Policy Recommendations **and/or** TDOT Operational Goals and/or Strategic Initiative selected above:

Safety is a high priority for the Department. Trucks parking on the shoulders of ramps pose a safety issue to drivers. Shoulders do not provide adequate acceleration for parked vehicles and the parked vehicles are fixed objects that could be struck by errant vehicles. This safety issue is being weighed against the needs for efficient freight movement which requires drivers to meet federal requirements for rest periods. Finding adequate parking that provides efficient movement of the freight while meeting the federal requirements is important. This research would help determine our safety needs while meeting our goals of having an effective and efficient transportation system.

For additional information, please contact:

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