



U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Transportation Research and Innovative Technology Act of 2012

The *Transportation Research and Innovative Technology Act of 2012* is a combination of research provisions reported by the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee and the Environment and Public Works Committee. It provides new direction to the Department of Transportation's (DOT) education and research agency, the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA). The legislation is necessary to assist the DOT with innovative planning and research capability. The legislation makes conforming statutory changes to streamline the agency's authority, and enhances RITA's ability to spur innovation in transportation research.

- **Better Coordination**: Directs the National Academy of Sciences to coordinate research agendas, project selections, and competitions under the National Cooperative Freight Research Program;
- **Streamlining**: Consolidates the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) under RITA;
- **Improved Information**: Enhances the BTS's National Transportation Library to become a fully functioning national library to serve as a repository of transportation information; and
- **Spurring Innovation**: Improves RITA's authority to enter into agreements with other stakeholders, and to conduct and award prizes as a tool for promoting innovation.