REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - AY 14-15
INSTITUTE FOR MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION
Jackson State University

Institute for Multimodal Transportation (IMTrans) at JSU has been awarded by USDOT the project “Maritime Transportation Research and Education Center (MarTREC)” and seeks to sponsor high quality research proposals that will address transportation issues relevant to Mississipians. The MarTREC has been developed based on a joint proposal effort from the University of Arkansas (lead), JSU, Louisiana State University, and the University of New Orleans. IMTrans at JSU is issuing this call for proposals for research that support concepts in maritime and multimodal transportation. IMTrans encourages the submission of any concept that meets this theme; however, several specific topics are identified in the following list that will merit special consideration.

Proposals received prior to the deadline will be reviewed by IMTrans’ Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and ranked according to the minimum requirements and evaluation criteria. The top three proposals that receive the most favorable rankings by the review committee will be selected for funding consideration. IMTrans will determine all funding decisions based on the amount of funding available for distribution, and the evaluations of the review committee. IMTrans may also negotiate modifications to proposed projects prior to determining final funding decisions.

Upon award of funding, IMTrans will appoint a center staff to monitor progress and to review and approve the final research products. The PIs of the selected projects are required to submit progress reports and project deliverables to the IMTrans. The progress reports and project deliverables include: quarterly progress reports in WORD, final project report in WORD, and prints of the published journal and conference papers. IMTrans will send the guideline for reporting format to the PIs of the selected projects.

Special Topics of Interest (Refer to MarTREC_Research_interests.pdf for more details)
1) Multimodal Supply Chain Efficacy Research Area
2) Economic Competitiveness through Waterborne Freight
3) Multimodal Infrastructure Asset and Material Resiliency
4) Sustainable Multimodal Infrastructure
5) Livability and Transit-Oriented Development of Coastal and River Valley Communities
6) Evacuation and Emergency Logistics for Coastal and River Valley Communities

Minimum Requirements:
To be considered for further review, all projects must meet the following minimum requirements: The proposed research must address topics directly related to the theme of building economic competitiveness through efficient, resilient, and sustainable maritime and multimodal transportation systems.

- The proposing entity must be a JSU employee who is eligible to submit research proposals.
- The PI should have a good track record of journal publications, and agrees to publish at least one refereed paper per year in a high quality transportation journal.
from the project. In addition, he/she agrees to present at least one peer-reviewed paper in a national transportation conference such as TRB (Transportation Research Board) annual meeting.

- The PI agrees to involve undergraduate and/or graduate students in the research project, especially to support MS/PhD students to earn advanced degrees.
- The proposed activities in the project will be in support of the research effectiveness metric goals set by the MarTREC (Please refer to MarTREC_Research_interests.pdf for more details).
- Projects cannot exceed $50,000 during the award period.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

In addition to meeting the minimum requirements listed above, the proposals will be evaluated on three categories of criteria – technical merit, level of resources, and project potential. Specifically, reviewers will be asked to evaluate the following:

Technical Merit (weighted 40%)
- Intellectual merit of the project
- Tasks and methods that will be used to achieve the research objectives
- Relevance to the research interests of MarTREC

Resources (weighted 30%)
- Qualifications of the research personnel with a good track of publications in the transportation area
- JSU faculty and student involvement in research
- Collaboration with transportation agencies and community outreach

Project Potential (weighted 30%)
- Relevance to the needs of Mississippi
- Potential for publications and/or further external funding
- Potential for implementation of research results

**Evaluation Schedule:**

*Final date for accepting proposals by IMTrans (close of business on):* May 27, 2014
*Notifications regarding the disposition of proposal:* July 5, 2014
*Eligible award periods can begin on or after:* July 20, 2014
Format for Proposals:

All proposals must be submitted electronically as a single Microsoft Word file attached to an email that originates from the principal investigator and is addressed to imtrans@jsums.edu with “IMTrans RFP AY 14-15” indicated in the subject line.

The attachment must be formatted to standard letter sized (8 ½ x11) paper with 1” margins and 12 point “Times New Roman” font; all of the following must be concisely stated in no more than (10) ten single-spaced pages, including cover and summary:

- Working title of the project (not to exceed 100 characters).
- Name, title and contact information for the principal investigator, including university name and mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address.
- A project summary of the problem or opportunity that will be addressed by the research. The project summary should not have more than 300 words.
- A list of project objectives that includes a one-sentence justification for each objective.
- A description of research tasks that will be carried out to accomplish the research objectives.
- A graphic timeline that illustrates the project period and when each task and objective will be accomplished.
- A general description of the roles of each collaborating party.
- A description of technology transfer activities.
- Discussions of the qualifications of the principal investigator and all key personnel and the percentage of time and level of effort of each person who will be assigned to the project.
- An itemized list of total project costs (excluding indirect costs), amount requested from IMTrans and a description of budget justification.

Applicants are encouraged to contact Dr. Robert Whalin with any questions regarding the Institute for Multimodal Transportation and submitting proposals. Phone: 601-979-1807; e-mail: robert.w.whalin@jsums.edu.