Mission Statement

The Intelligent Transportation Systems Institute is a University Transportation Center (UTC) funded through the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), the federal transportation bill passed in 1998. This funding continues the Institute’s efforts initiated under TEA-21’s predecessor, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991.

The Institute plans and conducts activities that further the mission of the United States Department of Transportation’s UTC program: to advance U.S. technology and expertise in the many disciplines that make up transportation through education, research, and technology transfer activities at university-based centers of excellence.

The Institute’s activities are guided by its theme of enhancing the safety and mobility of road- and transit-based transportation through a focus on human-centered technology. To that end, the Institute focuses the collective energies of researchers from multiple disciplines to advance the state of the art in the core ITS technologies of computing, sensing, communications, and control systems in order to surmount the significant transportation problems of the day.

Based on its theme, the Institute brings together engineers and cognitive psychologists from the University with its partners, which include the USDOT, the Minnesota DOT, other government agencies, and private industry, to ensure that Institute-developed technologies become tools that help us understand and overcome human limitations as they relate to transportation.

Additionally, the Institute addresses issues related to transportation in a northern climate, investigates technologies for improving the safety of travel in rural environments, and considers social and economic policy issues related to the deployment of core ITS technologies.