Mission Statement

The Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Institute is a congressionally designated national University Transportation Center (UTC) funded through the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), the federal surface transportation bill passed in 2005. This funding continues the Institute’s efforts initiated under SAFETEA-LU’s predecessors, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) and the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA).

The ITS Institute plans and conducts activities that further the mission of the U.S. 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. To help us accomplish this, we direct the work of researchers from multiple disciplines to advance the state of the art in the core ITS technologies of computing, sensing, communications, and control systems to solve today’s challenging transportation problems.

Our focus is on human-centered technology that enhances the safety and mobility of road- and transit-based transportation. To that end, we bring together technologists and those who study human behavior from the University with our partners—the U.S. Department of Transportation, Minnesota Department of Transportation, other government agencies, and private industry—to ensure that Institute-developed technologies become tools that help us understand and optimize human capabilities 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 use of core ITS technologies.

Financial Report

Expenditures for Year 12: July 1, 2010–June 30, 2011

Total Expenditures: $6.4 million

- Development and Administration 7%
- Education 7%
- Technology Transfer/Information Services 6%
- Research 80%