# GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH PAPER COMPETITION

## Addressing the Future of Texas Transportation

### The Competition

The Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) Strategic Solutions Center is sponsoring a graduate-student research paper competition.

Our goal: Encourage developing researchers to think about the future of Texas transportation.

### Paper Content

We seek creative and innovative ideas that relate in an important and compelling way to improve or sustain the Texas transportation system in the near- and long-term future.

Research topics are not limited to any mode of transportation.

### Who Can Enter?

All Texas A&M University graduate students, including those currently employed by TTI.

### What Do You Win?

A $1,000 stipend will be awarded the winning entry.

The center will also pursue opportunities for presentations and recognition of the winning paper in appropriate TTI venues.

### Deadline

Papers must be submitted to the center by **January 25, 2013**.

[Paper judging expected to be complete and a winner announced by **February 28, 2013**.]

### What are the Rules?

- Papers must follow the Paper Development Guidelines attached to this announcement.
- Entries are limited to one per graduate student.
- Papers are limited to 15 pages in length, not including the cover page and reference list.
- If the author is a TTI student employee, any work on the paper should be completed outside of TTI employment hours.

### Selection Criteria

Selection will be judged based on:

- specific and realistic policy recommendations for strategies to improve/sustain the Texas transportation system
- creativity
- clarity and succinct writing style and adherence to paper development guidelines

### How to Submit a Paper

Submit your paper in .pdf format via email to:

Cinde Weatherby, Director  
Texas A&M Transportation Institute  
Strategic Solutions Center  
c-weatherby@tamu.edu

Each entry must include the following information in the submittal email:

- your name,
- email address,
- best contact telephone number, and
- department/school.

### Mission of the Strategic Solutions Center

The Strategic Solutions Center’s mission is to develop future-oriented analyses for state and local officials to use in making decisions affecting the long-term viability and sustainability of the Texas transportation system.
The assumed audience is the general public, not transportation professionals. Papers should be written for an audience that is not familiar with the topic.

The paper should:
- describe an idea or concept
- convince the audience of its worth in making a positive impact on the future Texas transportation system
- be clear and concise, with a minimum of acronyms or jargon.

Papers should conform to the following format:
- a maximum of 15 pages for the main paper text (this limit does not include the cover page and reference list),
- each page should include the paper title and page number in a header
- a minimum of one-inch margins, and
- a minimum of 11-point type.

Use of graphics and tables is encouraged. There is no limit on the use of graphics, tables, or call-outs.

The paper should include the following:
1. A cover page, including:
   - paper title, which should be brief and capture the reader's attention;
   - author's name;
   - author's email address;
   - author's best contact telephone number;
   - author's primary Texas A&M University department or school affiliation; and
   - if a TTI graduate student employee, the name of the TTI program and individual to which the author reports.
2. An introduction that summarizes the idea being presented. It should include the historical context of the idea conveyed, if appropriate.
3. The body of the paper should fully state the proposed idea or concept that will improve or sustain the Texas transportation system in the near- or long-term future.
4. A conclusion section that summarizes:
   - the problems faced or situation addressed,
   - the solutions or recommendations being made, and
   - whether your proposal implies research questions (and if so, describe them).
5. A reference list (titled “References”) that includes only sources that are directly cited in the paper.

For bibliographical references, use the Microsoft Word ISO 690 format (available on the References tab in Word).

There is no limit on the number of pages in the reference list. However, only include sources directly cited in the paper.