TRWD GRANT PROGRAM

Transportation-Related Research & Workforce Development

OVERVIEW

The Transportation-Related Research & Workforce Development (TRWD) Grant Program was established by the Arkansas Legislature in 2017 to fund transportation-related research using interest income received from the State Highway and Transportation Department Fund. The program was expanded to include workforce development projects in 2021.

The purpose of this program is to support the study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions to provide resilient and sustainable logistics, processes, materials, and methods to ensure cost-effectiveness and the furtherance of education and economic development concerning all forms of transportation. The program also supports industry training, apprenticeship, and educational programs to foster skills required for transportation-related workforce development.

GUIDELINES

- This grant program is open to any publicly funded institution of higher education.
- The minimum grant amount is $20,000, and there is no maximum limit that can be requested.
- $1,000,000 in funding is available each application cycle.
- Projects can be on any transportation-related research or transportation-related workforce development topic. Projects do not have to cover both subject areas.
- Applications are solicited at least once every two years, and notice is posted at: ardot.gov/TRWD
- Once applications are submitted and evaluated, awards are approved by the Arkansas State Highway Commission.
- Funding will be available for distribution upon execution of a grant agreement.

SINCE 2019, ARDOT HAS AWARDED APPROXIMATELY

$4.9 MILLION

21 PROJECTS

12 SCHOOLS

100% STATE FUNDING

ARDOT ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Local Programs Division
479-360-7161
ARDOT.GOV/TRWD

OCTOBER 2026

EXAMPLES OF PAST TRWD GRANT PROGRAM PROJECTS

- Evaluation of Mechanical Properties of Alkali Activated Wood Ash Based Polymer Modified Asphalt Concrete
- Experimental Investigation and Optimization of a Hydrogen Fuel Cell Engine in a Lightweight Vehicle Aligns with Clean Transportation Strategy
- Developing a Sustainable Approach to Roadside Vegetation Management in the State of Arkansas
- Feasibility Assessment of Reclaimed fly Ash (RFA) and Ground Tire Rubber (GTR) Modified Concrete
- An Estimation of the Relationships between Density, Transit Ridership, and Household Transportation Expenditures in Arkansas Urban Areas
- Sustainable Use of Rice Husk and Scrap Tires as Construction Materials of Transportation Infrastructures
- Entry-level Heavy Equipment Operator Training for Highway Construction
- Utilization of Steel Industry Slag for Production of Durable Concrete in Construction
- Workforce Training Program Enhancement through Addition of Heavy Equipment Simulators
- Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Training Program Equipment Upgrades and Rehabilitation
- Low-Cost CDL Training Opportunities for Students
- Evaluation of the Impact of Additional CDL Endorsements on Employment Opportunities and Road Safety

Pressure Meter to Measure Air Content for RFA and GTR Project

Vehicle Equipped with a Hydrogen Fuel Cell

Data Collection on Roadside Vegetation Project

Heavy Equipment Operator Training with a Small Roller