

1. Mission and Theme

The University Transportation Center for Alabama (UTCA) conducts transportation education, research, and technology transfer activities using faculty members and students from The University of Alabama, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, and The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UA, UAB and UAH). All faculty and staff members at UA System campuses are eligible to conduct projects.

Mission

The UTCA mission is:

To advance technology and expertise in the multiple disciplines that comprise transportation through the mechanisms of education, research, and technology transfer while serving as a university-based center of excellence.

This statement is identical to that of the university transportation centers (UTC) program of the Research and Special Programs Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). UTCA has used the mission statement as the primary guidance in preparing its strategic plan and designing its programs.

Theme

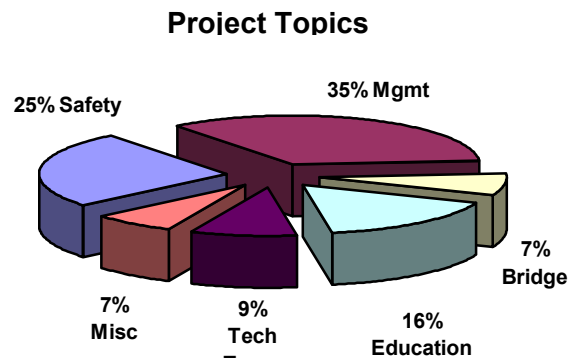
The theme was carefully chosen by the UTCA Executive Committee to provide additional guidance and

direction for activities. The theme provides a good fit for UA System faculty members:

Management and Safety of Transportation Systems

In allocating UTCA funding, the UTCA gives priority to programs and projects that closely follow the theme. For example, all proposals are specifically examined for compliance with the theme.

This is illustrated by the following pie chart, which displays the topic areas for projects authorized or conducted using USDOT university transportation center funding since the creation of UTCA in 1999.



Obviously, the theme is working and faculty members are conducting projects within it.