

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
LOUISIANA TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH CENTER
TRANSPORTATION INNOVATION FOR RESEARCH EXPLORATION (TIRE)
AWARDS - FY 2026-2027

LTRC invites proposals for small-scale, exploratory research in all fields of transportation science, engineering and education normally supported by LTRC. Such research is characterized by:

- i. Preliminary work on untested and novel ideas
- ii. ventures into emerging research ideas
- iii. application of new expertise or new approaches to "old" research topics
- iv. multi/cross-disciplinary work crossing LTRC program boundaries
- v. research having severe urgency with regard to availability or access to data, facilities or equipment (i.e. study to supporting on-going research or construction projects)
- vi. efforts of similar character likely to catalyze rapid and innovative advances.

Award Amount and Indirect Cost Restrictions:

LTRC TIRE awards are for a maximum of \$40,000. Awards are for a 12-month period and work must begin on or after July 1, 2026. TIRE awards are non-renewable and will not be eligible for additional funds or extension of contract time. It is anticipated that four awards will be made in March 2026. Because of the limited value of the award, **INDIRECT COSTS SHOULD BE WAIVED!** Proposals not waiving indirect costs will not be competitive. *Since TIRE Awards are tied to a fiscal year budget, the final invoice for TIRE Awards must be submitted to LTRC on or before July 31, 2027. Invoices submitted after July 31, 2027 will not be eligible for reimbursement. Tuition for graduate students supported on TIRE award funds must be waived since LTRC is not allowed to provide tuition for graduate students. The Office of Sponsored Programs or the Office of Research submitting the proposal must indicate on the budget sheet that it agrees to the final invoice reimbursement policy and that tuition for graduate students supported by the TIRE award will be waived.*

Travel Restriction: Travel charged to a TIRE project shall be limited to what is necessary for the conduct of the research. Travel for conference, convention, or seminars is not allowed in the budget.

Eligibility: Tenure-track assistant professors who have not received a TIRE award that had start date of July 1, 2022 or later are eligible to apply. Associate professors who have not received a TIRE award and advanced to their current rank after July 1, 2024 are also eligible to apply. Investigators can involve colleagues as co-PIs but only in a no-cost role. Full professors/Research faculty/research associates/post docs/research staff are not eligible to submit TIRE proposals.

Investigators can serve as a PI or co-PI only on one proposal. If an investigator submits more than one proposal as a PI or co-PI then all the proposals involving the investigator will be returned without review and are deemed ineligible for funding consideration.

Review: All proposals will be subject to internal and/or external review. We have also attached for your information, a copy of a Proposal Rating Form that our review panel uses to rate the proposals.

Requirements of Past Recipient: Investigators who have received a TIRE award in the past and are eligible to apply, must provide a brief description of the results of their prior award, list publications/patents generated, and clearly state how the award was leveraged to secure additional external funding. This additional information should not exceed one page. If the past recipient fails to show that he has been successful in leveraging the award to secure a larger project from external sources, his/her proposal will be non-competitive.

Submission Guidelines: TIRE proposals should include the four standard pages--Proposal title page, budget page, bio sketches page and Title VI statement page--included in the attached file titled "Proposal Form". The

project summary and project description should not exceed 5 pages. Proposals exceeding the 9-page limit (4 standard pages + 5-page summary and project description) for new PIs and the 10-page limit (4 standard pages + 5-page summary and project description + 1-page additional information) for prior TIRE awardees will be returned without review. Each proposal should include clear statements demonstrating that the proposed work meets at least one of the six criteria listed above. No supplemental material -- including bios -- is allowed.

PIs are required to include the following statement at the end of the project description:

"This proposal – in part or whole -- has not been submitted to another agency for funding consideration".

Proposals must be submitted electronically before noon CT on March 2, 2026, to Sheri Hughes at sheri.hughes@la.gov.

Reporting Requirements: Final project reports will be required within the study period and will follow the guidelines in the LTRC Publication Guidelines. Investigators are required to submit a two-page technical summary of the completed project along with the final project report. LTRC TIRE Program Technical Summary Template must be used to prepare the two-page technical summary. Investigators are expected to perform research in accordance with approved proposal and document all efforts and outcomes, even if the results are not considered successful.

Proposal Submission Deadline: Noon (CT), March 2, 2026

Announcement of Awards: March 10, 2026 (anticipated)

Authorization to Begin Work: July 1, 2026

Submit proposals electronically to: Sheri Hughes
Office of the Director
LTRC
sheri.hughes@la.gov

TIRE Program Contact: Dr. Vijaya (VJ) Gopu
Assoc. Director – External Programs
Office: 225-767-9102; Cell: 225-802-8778
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