



SEPTEMBER 2021—THE PROFILER

Welcome to the *Profiler* Newsletter, where Mississippi DOT Research Division will share information about research projects, collaborations, and events.

Collaboration Spotlight: Mississippi State University's Construction and Material Research Center (CMRC)

CMRC is a partnership between academia, industry, and agencies, whose aim is to “advance the state of the materials industry with particular focus on highways and transportation systems” (from their [website](#)). **MDOT Chief Engineer Brian Ratliff** currently serves as the Chairman of the CMRC Advisory Board, and **Alex Middleton** (Research) and **Griffin Sullivan** (Materials) actively support CMRC in a variety of ways. Aside from research on pavements, materials, and construction, CMRC does the following:

- Holds mentoring sessions for future transportation professionals.
- Creates content for the MSU College of Engineering [YouTube channel](#).
- In the Construction Matters video series, MSU engineering students explain the different aspects of construction, such as safety and recycling, and [how construction is vital to our quality of life](#).

Latest MDOT Research Reports

The following research project final reports were recently completed:

- [Transit Vehicle Specification Development](#)—**Public Transit, Procurement, and Asset Management Divisions, and Intermodal Deputy Director Charles Carr** worked with Gresham Smith to find ways to streamline specification writing for purchase of public transit vehicles, such as ADA-compliant buses.
- [Safety Performance Function Calibration for Mississippi](#)—**Traffic Engineering and Safety Divisions** worked with HDR Engineering to develop crash prediction factors for Mississippi's implementation of the AASHTO Highway Safety Manual.

Upcoming Events

AASHTO Special Committee on Research and Innovation—October 7-8, 2021

Transportation Research Board (TRB) 101st Annual Meeting—Washington, DC January 9-13, 2022 ([more info](#))

For More Information or with newsletter ideas, email researchnews@mdot.ms.gov or contact [Alex Middleton](#) or [Cindy Smith](#).

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