

## **Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Contracted Research Projects**

August 2025

### **Does MoDOT require research to be performed under the immediate supervision of a professional engineer licensed in the state of Missouri?**

Yes, research that rises to the level of “professional engineering services” must be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 327 RSMo.

Prior to posting any Research Request for Proposals (RFPs), each individual research project will be evaluated to determine whether “professional engineering services” are required.

### **Does MoDOT allow Co-Principal Investigators to be involved in a project? If yes, will both Co-Principal Investigators be required to meet the requirements of Chapter 327 RSMo?**

Yes, MoDOT policy allows Principal Investigator (PI) responsibilities to be split between two professionals.

MoDOT requires at least one of the Co-PIs to be a licensed Professional Engineer (PE) in Missouri. The licensed Co-PI will be considered the engineer of responsibility.

### **If a researcher has a PE certification in another state and is in the process of obtaining their PE license in the state of Missouri, are they allowed to be a lead on a project prior to receiving full PE certification in Missouri?**

No. All submitted proposals regarding research projects determined to be “professional engineering services,” will be required to be led by a licensed PE in Missouri at the time of proposal submission.

### **How does MoDOT verify that a researcher is certified as a licensed PE in Missouri?**

MoDOT requires the lead PI to provide within their proposal, documentation through the Missouri Board of Architects, Professional Engineers, Professional Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects that they are licensed in the state of Missouri. This can be in the form of a copy of their PE certificate or PE registration number.

### **How does MoDOT manage these requirements within Transportation Pooled Funds?**

Missouri-led transportation pooled fund projects must be managed by a licensed PE in Missouri. MoDOT is involved with several other transportation pooled fund projects that are led by other states or government agencies. Those pooled funds are not bound by the provisions of Chapter 327 RSMo.

**Will MoDOT conduct research that would not be bound by the provisions of Chapter 327 RSMo?**

Yes, there are research areas where MoDOT may decide not to seek “professional engineering services.” These areas include but are not limited to the following:

- Business Policy Reviews
- Legislative Reviews
- Economic Impact Studies

**Does MoDOT require the consultant to be a resident of Missouri?**

No. The only requirement is that at least one of the Co-PIs is a licensed PE in Missouri.

**Can the overhead rate be adjusted during the life of a project?**

No. The overhead rate will remain the same for the duration of the agreement.

**Can the research team subcontract out a portion of the work to a subconsultant?**

If the researcher chooses to use subconsultants, then the proposal must include the same information regarding project personnel and experience for the subconsultant as is required for the consultant.

Send comments, suggestions, or questions to [MoDOTResearch@modot.mo.gov](mailto:MoDOTResearch@modot.mo.gov).