

May 27, 2026

Dear Research Partner:

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (MHTC) requests proposals from qualified organizations - namely private consultants, universities, and research organizations - to furnish professional services as described in the following request for proposal to be coordinated by the Research Unit of the Construction and Materials Division.

Please submit a proposal for project **TR202708** entitled, **“Rate of Water Absorption by Concrete Aggregate.”** The submittal must include a work plan, the proposed project team and its background, and any related projects now active or recently completed by your firm. The project team must be led by a professional engineer licensed in the state of Missouri in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 327 RSMo.

The selection committee will use Qualification Based Selection. A “not to exceed” budget amount is included in the RFP to assist with the required scope, but budgets are not to be included with the proposal submissions and will not be presented to the selection committee.

Please submit all proposals to [MoDOTResearchRFP@modot.mo.gov](mailto:MoDOTResearchRFP@modot.mo.gov) by **July 15, 2026, at 10 a.m. (Central)**. More information about project contracting in general can be found at <https://www.modot.org/information-researchers> under RFP documents.

Sincerely,



Jen Harper  
Research Director

Attachment



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## RFP Schedule

The following Request for Proposal (RFP) Schedule of Events represents the Missouri Department of Transportation's (MoDOT) best estimate of the schedule that shall be followed. The time of day for the following events shall be between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (Central) unless otherwise noted. MoDOT reserves the right at its sole discretion to expand this schedule, as it deems necessary, without any notification except for change in the deadline date for submitting a proposal. Time is of the essence for responding to the RFP within the submission deadlines.

The following timeline must be met for a proposal to be accepted.

Date	Action
5/27/2026	MoDOT posts RFP to the website at <a href="https://www.modot.org/research-requests-proposal">https://www.modot.org/research-requests-proposal</a> .
6/17/2026 4 p.m. (Central)	Comments or questions must be submitted to <a href="mailto:MoDOTResearchRFP@modot.mo.gov">MoDOTResearchRFP@modot.mo.gov</a> . This is the only acceptable method for contact regarding the RFP and contacting MoDOT employees via other methods is prohibited. Not adhering to this rule is cause for disqualification of the proposal. This includes all requests for information, data, and manuals.
7/1/2026	MoDOT will post responses (to any questions or comments submitted) publicly on the website by this date at <a href="https://www.modot.org/research-requests-proposal">https://www.modot.org/research-requests-proposal</a> .
7/15/2026 10 a.m. (Central)	Proposals must be submitted to <a href="mailto:MoDOTResearchRFP@modot.mo.gov">MoDOTResearchRFP@modot.mo.gov</a> . Do not consider your proposal submitted until you receive notification of receipt. A notification should be sent by noon on the same day.
7/29/2026	MoDOT will notify submitters by this date about project selection or if needed, about interviews to finalize selection.

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## Background

The “gold standard” test for concrete aggregate freeze-thaw durability is AASHTO T161 “Resistance of Concrete to Rapid Freezing and Thawing” but the test is lengthy and complex to run. The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) also uses AASHTO T85 “Specific Gravity and Absorption of Coarse Aggregate” to characterize concrete aggregate but T85 does not quantify the rate water absorbs into the aggregate. MoDOT has previously researched the Iowa Pore Index test (AASHTO T417) but has not adopted the method. The pore index test quantifies the amount of water forced into the aggregate under pressure.

Previous research (Verbeck and Landgren, 1960, “Influence of Physical Characteristics of Aggregates on Frost Resistance of Concrete” et al) shows the rate and amount of water absorbed by concrete aggregate varies considerably based on the porosity of the aggregate in question. Mercury Intrusion Porosimetry has been used to quantify porosity but isn’t practically feasible as it involves the use of mercury.

ASTM C1585 “Measurement of Rate of Absorption of Water by Hydraulic-Cement Concretes” quantifies the rate of water absorption for concrete. ASTM C1585 does not give a direct measurement of porosity but quantifies how the material absorbs water. However, ASTM C1585 does not seem feasible for evaluating different concrete aggregates.

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## Objectives

Develop an approach to quantifiably measure the rate of water absorption into concrete aggregate. Also develop an approach to calculate a property from the test results that can be used to differentiate concrete aggregate. Any testing procedures, testing apparatus or equipment developed in this research will be turned over to MoDOT at the end of this research.

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## Project Requirements

Project budget is not to exceed \$200,000.

Within the proposal, identify the team members assigned to each task. Refer to the example shown on the [website](#).

### Task 1: Project Management

The Researcher will facilitate a kickoff meeting with MoDOT to review the work plan, scope, and schedule; and establish a protocol for regular ongoing communication and coordination with the team. The Researcher will schedule and conduct quarterly project status meetings to review progress of the previous period and anticipated work for the next period. Meetings can be in-person or online. The Researcher will also develop minutes for the kickoff meeting and each of the quarterly status meetings. The finalized work plan will detail the implementation of the following tasks as well as the resources and schedule required to carry them out.

The Researcher is required to submit a [Data Management Plan \(DMP\)](#) to MoDOT two weeks after the project kickoff meeting. The plan will describe the anticipated format(s) of the Researcher's data and related files they will use. The DMP should address how the Researcher will use platform-independent and non-proprietary formats to ensure maximum utility of the data in the future. Please refer to the DMP fillable form on the [website](#). The DMP can be modified, as needed, throughout the life of the contract.

### **Task 2: Research and Literature Review**

The Researcher will perform a literature review of ASTM C1585 specifications, the Iowa Pore Index, and any other methods or procedures to determine the pore index value of aggregates.

### **Task 3: Develop Test Method and Apparatus to Quantify the Rate of Water Absorption of Coarse Aggregate**

Develop an approach to quantifiably measure the rate of water absorption into concrete aggregate. The method should immerse aggregate in room temperature water, similar to AASHTO T85. The aggregate should be immersed in water long enough to be fully saturated. This may be up to several days. Water absorption may be measured by mass or volume change so long as the method is accurate and repeatable.

The Researchers should also calculate various properties from the test data and determine which, if any, best differentiate between aggregates of different freeze-thaw durability. Per Verbeck and Landgren (1960) this is not a trivial analysis. There may be an absorption level below which the rate of water absorption doesn't matter because the aggregate doesn't absorb enough water for there to be a durability issue. The critical percent saturation and time to reach that saturation will likely vary based on the aggregate type as well.

The proposed test method will need to be compared against existing methods. The aggregates should also be evaluated by AASHTO T85, the Iowa Pore Index test (AASHTO T417) and the Micro-Deval test (AASHTO T327) accordingly.

The testing apparatus and method should be, but is not limited to:

- Able to quickly quantify the rate of water absorption of concrete aggregate similar to how ASTM C1585 quantifies the rate of water absorption into concrete.
- An uncomplicated apparatus and method that can be easily performed in a lab by a technician.
- A robust piece of equipment with readily available replacement parts.
- The equipment and materials will need to follow all laws and regulations of the Buy American Act.

A testing procedure will also be created that describes all the steps in this method from sample preparation to the final calculations.

Any testing procedures, testing apparatus or equipment developed in this research will be turned over to MoDOT at the end of this research.

Development of the proposed test method should be based on a limited number of aggregates of differing freeze-thaw durability. The intent would be to focus on varying the test procedure.

Each concrete aggregate used in Task 3 should meet one of the gradations below to facilitate Task 5b. “Grade D” concrete aggregate should be used in Task 3. This would be consistent with MoDOT research on T161 testing from the 1990s. Grade D and Grade E are per current MoDOT specifications. Grade C and Grade F are from historical MoDOT specifications in the 1980s and 1990s, respectively.

Percent Passing by Weight				
Sieve Size	Grade D	Grade E	Grade C	Grade F
1”	100			
¾”	85-100	100	100	
½”		70-100	85-100	100
3/8”	15-55	30-70	40-70	85-100
No. 4	0-10	0-20	0-15	10-30
No. 8		0-6		0-10

**Task 4: Provide Interim Presentation of Research Findings**

An interim presentation shall be scheduled near the mid-point of the project to update MoDOT on the progress and the direction of the project. The purpose of the interim presentation is to evaluate the progress and determine if any mid-project corrections are necessary.

**Task 5: Testing with Developed Test Method and Apparatus**

5a) Additional concrete aggregate sources should be subjected to the developed test method and other aggregate tests from Task 3. The intent would be to see how well the developed test method differentiates between different concrete aggregates.

5b) A limited number of aggregates, probably those used in Task 3, should also be subjected to the developed test method from Task 3 at different gradations per the table given. The intent is to see how well the developed test method responds to progressively smaller aggregate. The table is based on current and historical MoDOT specifications. For the purposes of this research the gradation tested should at a minimum meet the values for the largest and 2<sup>nd</sup> largest sieve listed. For “Grade D,” this would mean the concrete aggregate has 100% passing the 1” sieve and 85-100% passing the ¾” sieve.

Each concrete aggregate should be tested at least two different maximum aggregate sizes from the gradations given in Task 3. It will probably be most practical to test each concrete aggregate at “Grade D” and “Grade E.”

Task 5b would only use the developed test method. Additional test methods (Iowa Pore Index, etc.) would not be required as part of Task 5b.

### **Task 6: Develop Draft Report and Research Summary**

The Researcher will prepare a draft Synthesis Report and Research Summary along with all accompanying documentation identified as beneficial during the study. These drafts should be a complete Report and Summary except for revisions based on MoDOT's review. A final report must include a completed Technical Report Documentation page. Please refer to the Publication Guidelines and summary template on the [website](#).

### **Task 7: Develop Final Report, Summary, and Presentation**

The Researcher will develop a final report detailing the tasks completed during the project, including any and all findings generated during the project's duration. The Researcher will provide a 1-2 page research summary that states the project objectives, findings and conclusions. A presentation for MoDOT staff summarizing important or significant details of the project must be provided. Please refer to the Publications Guidelines for the report and research summary, which can be found on the [website](#).

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## **Project Deliverables**

For templates and forms for reports and plans, visit <https://www.modot.org/information-researchers>. All documents must be Section 508 compliant (<https://www.section508.gov/> and <https://www.access-board.gov/ict.html>).

## **Communications**

E-mail and phone communications between the Principal Investigator(s) and MoDOT contacts are required to provide on-going updates of progress throughout the project.

## **Data Management Plan**

The plan is a formal document that describes the data that is acquired, created, or produced during the project. It specifies who owns it, who can access it, and explains how it will be described, managed, analyzed, stored, shared, and preserved during and after the project is over. Please refer to the DMP fillable form on the [website](#). The DMP can be modified, as needed, throughout the life of the contract.

## **Quarterly Reports**

Quarterly reports should be submitted throughout the project on the 15th of April, July, October and January. The quarterly reports are not intended to replace any additional correspondence between the research team and MoDOT needed to keep the project moving. Please refer to the template on the [website](#). Quarterly reports must be submitted as Word documents.

## **Interim Presentation**

An interim presentation shall be scheduled near the mid-point of the project to update MoDOT on the progress and the direction of the project. The purpose of the interim presentation is to evaluate the progress and determine if any mid-project corrections are necessary.

## **Other Deliverables**

Any testing procedures, testing apparatus or equipment developed in this research will be turned over to MoDOT at the end of this research.

## **Draft Final Report and Research Summary**

Draft documents must be submitted as Word documents. These drafts should be complete except for revisions based on MoDOT's review. A final report must include a completed Technical Report Documentation page. Please refer to the Publication Guidelines and summary template on the [website](#).

## **Final Report and Research Summary**

After MoDOT's review is complete and documents have been edited to MoDOT's satisfaction, final documents must be submitted as Word documents (unless otherwise instructed). Please refer to the Publication Guidelines and summary template on the [website](#).

## **Final Presentation**

The Contractor will present the results, recommendations, and implementation ideas to MoDOT and other stakeholders. The Contractor will coordinate the meeting location and date with MoDOT. For stakeholder and agency participants, any travel and lodging fees are to be covered

by individual attendees or their firms. MoDOT and stakeholders will provide feedback, especially comments about implementation, to the Contractor.

### Task-Specific Deliverables

Task	Deliverables
1	Meeting agenda, minutes, and data management plan.
2	Literature review
3	Test method and testing apparatus
4	Interim presentation
5	Test results
6	Draft final report and research summary
7	Final report, research summary, and presentation All testing procedures, testing apparatus or equipment developed

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## Project Schedule

The following is an estimate of the project timeline and information on key dates within the project, presuming the project starts **September 1, 2026**. Proposals must include a work plan with a proposed timeline. For an example of a work plan template, see the link below. Changes to the estimated project timeline below will be considered; however, timeline extensions cannot be guaranteed. If the Contractor believes the project can be completed sooner, please include a revised schedule with the proposal. The project timeline will be discussed and finalized during the kickoff meeting.

For report templates and forms, visit <https://www.modot.org/information-researchers>.

Date	Milestone
9/15/2026	A kick-off meeting with MoDOT will be scheduled by this date to discuss project requirements and deliverables. The dates of key milestones and deliverables will be determined from this meeting.
9/29/2026	The data management plan is due by this date.
5/3/2027	An interim presentation must be done by this date.
11/1/2027	The draft final report, draft summary report, other deliverables are due by this date. The draft documents shall be submitted to MoDOT approximately two months prior to the final report.
1/3/2028	The final report, summary report, presentations, other deliverables are due by this date. The final documents shall be due approximately two months before the end of the contract. This is to allow all billing to be completed prior to the end of the project.
1/3/2028	Any testing procedures, testing apparatus or equipment developed in this research will be turned over to MoDOT by this date.
3/1/2028	The final invoice is due by this date and the contract ends.

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## Special Notes

- This document constitutes an RFP from qualified organizations to conduct the **TR202708 Rate of Water Absorption by Concrete Aggregate** study for the MHTC and MoDOT. MHTC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals for any reason whatsoever.
- The use of graduate students is allowed on the project; however, the Offeror must maintain supervision of all research and show that they are conducting a majority of the work. If a graduate student wishes to use the research as part of a thesis or dissertation prior to any publication, the Contractor must obtain written permission from the MHTC and MoDOT. Additionally, the graduate student’s manuscript may not be published until after the MHTC and the Federal Highway Administration’s acceptance of the final report.
- Before MoDOT enters into a contract with an Offeror for Engineering or Non-Engineering research services, the Offeror must be on MoDOT’s Approved Consultant Pre-Qualification list. If the Offeror is not on the list, but desires to be considered for future research projects, follow the instructions on the Consultant Prequalification website, <https://www.modot.org/design-related-consultant-services>.
- Before project invoices can be processed, the Offeror must be registered with MissouriBUYS powered by MOVERS. Follow the instructions on [State of Missouri - Supplier Registration](#) website to get registered (if not already).
- A budget is not to be included in the proposal but will be required for the contract and must be within this limit. For a budget template, report templates and forms, see <https://www.modot.org/information-researchers>.
- All questions, information, data and/or manual requests regarding any aspect of the RFP details or process for submissions should be submitted to [MoDOTResearchRFP@modot.mo.gov](mailto:MoDOTResearchRFP@modot.mo.gov) by the date and time listed in the “Project Schedule” section of the RFP. This is the only acceptable method for contact regarding the RFP and contacting MoDOT employees via other methods is prohibited. Not adhering to this rule is cause for disqualification of the proposal.
- All information technology applications must be developed using one of the approved technologies below. Contractors may not use third-party tools or software that would place a licensing responsibility on MoDOT without prior review and approval of the tools and/or software by MoDOT’s Information Systems Best Practices Review Team (BPRT) and IS management:
  - Application Runtime/Framework
    - \* .NET 8.0, .NET 10 or .NET Framework
      - A currently supported .NET 8.0, .NET 10 or above release should be used unless there is a specific need for .NET Framework. If a .NET Framework is needed, a currently supported 4.8 release or above must be used. (See .NET and .NET Core official support policy (Microsoft.com))
      - Web applications must use either the MVC, Razor Pages or Web API framework.
      - Library dependencies used in the application should be reviewed/updated on an annual basis.

- Programming Languages – The following are the approved programming languages that should be used for new developments:
  - \* C#
  - \* JavaScript
  - \* CSS
  - \* HTML
  - \* Python\* (Python is reserved for use in ESRI scripts and other small one-time uses. Large scale use of Python requires approval from BPRT. The Python programming language is incorporated into the setups of ArcGIS Desktop, ArcGIS Pro, and ArcGIS Enterprise. For other platforms a version 3.x of Python from [www.python.org](http://www.python.org) should be used.)
- Client-Side Software Packages
  - \* All customer applications should be Web Based, browser applications. Applications should be tested and designed to use the latest IS approved browser(s) at a minimum.
- No client-side software, other than a modern browser, should be required to run the web application. Examples:
  - \* No Java Applets
  - \* No Silverlight
- On Premise Database Deployments – These shall be run on:
  - \* Oracle 19C; or
  - \* The application should be designed and maintained to run on the latest supported version of SQL server. In certain cases, Microsoft SQL Server 2016 or higher can be used if approved by the MoDOT IS Data Service Management team.
- Personal Identifiable Information (PII): No PII can be stored in any database table unless the application has a specific business need to use that data. All PII data that is stored must have approval from MoDOT’s IS Cyber Security Team.
- Accessibility: All web applications must meet the standards established in State of Missouri’s Accessibility Standard, which is based on Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (as amended) and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. (See Accessibility ([mo.gov](http://mo.gov))). All web applications must adhere to the W3 Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 with an “AA” level of conformance (WCAG 2.1 AA).
- Copyright and Attribution: Never use text, diagrams, photographs, audio, multimedia, program source code, script, or graphics from another author’s web pages unless the author explicitly states that it may be freely copied, or you make appropriate arrangements with the author. Vendor logos, branding, or other company endorsements must not appear if there is a supported option and there is a licensed way to eliminate them from the display.

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## Proposal Requirements

- Correct proposal submission is one of the evaluation criteria. If submission instructions in this section are not followed, the Offeror **risks an automatic 10-point deduction (out of 100 total points)** when points are awarded during the Proposal Evaluation Process.
- “**Contracting Documents**” provide further details and links to the required forms. They are available at <https://www.modot.org/information-researchers>.
- **Offeror’s Project Experience:** The proposal must clearly identify the Offeror’s experience in offering the services requested in this RFP during the past three (3) years. The description should include a list of the agencies which your organization has served during this time period or currently serves. Please highlight any work you have done with other state agencies or local governments.
- **Offeror’s Other Commitments:** The proposal must demonstrate that the organization and all members of the research team, including subcontractors identified in the proposal, will be able to meet the commitments of the proposal. A comprehensive list of commitments to other work shall be provided. This shall include staff-hour commitments and/or percentage of time committed to other work for each member of the proposed research team. If the Offeror’s research team has university faculty, the proposal must show any anticipated or planned sabbaticals. Refer to the example shown on the [website](#).
- **Team Member Experience:** Please list all team members (including subcontractors) proposed to work on the project. Attach licenses, certifications and resumes for key personnel.
- **Offeror’s Client References:** Proposals should indicate the name, title, and telephone number of at least three clients within the past three years.
- Proposals must be no more than 12 pages in length with a font size no less than 12 points. This length limit does not include the Proposal Submission Form, Offeror’s Project Experience, Team Member Experience, Offeror’s Client References, and may include an optional cover letter (if included, one (1) page maximum).
- Proposals must be submitted as one combined document. The submission should only include the required documents organized in the following order: 1) Proposal Submission Form; 2) Cover Letter (Optional; 1 page maximum); 3) Body of Proposal (including work plan and project schedule); 4) Offeror’s Project Experience; 5) Offeror’s Other Commitments; 6) Team Member Experience; and 7) Offeror’s Client References.
- The Offeror must respond to this RFP by submitting all the information required herein for its proposal to be evaluated and considered for award. Failure to submit all the required information shall be deemed sufficient cause for disqualification of a proposal from consideration.
- Proposals will be evaluated by an agency and stakeholder team with knowledge and backgrounds in relevant areas for this project. Selection of the successful Offeror will be based on the Offeror’s demonstrated knowledge in the required areas, the merit of the proposed methods, approach in achieving the desired goals, the experience and qualifications of the team, the plan for ensuring implementation of results, and the adequacy and availability of team members to complete the work in a timely manner.

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## Proposal Scoring Criteria

These are criteria used by the Technical Advisory Committee to review proposals.

- Expected development and outline of research problem is understood and expressed clearly in the response. The language of the narrative is straightforward and limited to facts, solutions to problems, and plans of action. Does the Offeror understand what MoDOT is asking for and provides an implementable solution?
- The proposed approach to the research problem appears feasible. Is the proposed solution doable?
- The proposal results in a sense of confidence that the Offeror could complete the task.
- An overall qualifications review provides the sense that the Offeror possesses the necessary experience, reliability and organizational expertise and personnel.
- MoDOT has experienced acceptable previous performance from the Offeror's personnel and/or organization.
- Additional value provided (offering more than RFP requires).

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## Contracting Requirements

The award of this RFP is subject to a post-award negotiated contract. If the parties are unable to agree to terms in the post-award contract, MHTC shall reserve the right to cancel the award of the RFP and contract and select a different Offeror.

The successful team will be required to complete additional documentation and enter into a contract such as a “Standard Research Agreement” or “Task Order.” Applicants should be aware of these additional needs so contracting can proceed in a timely manner. A copy of the Standard Research Agreement can be found on the website at <https://www.modot.org/information-researchers>. In order to be considered by the Commission, any Offeror desired modifications to the Standard Research Agreement / contract must be submitted with the Offeror’s proposal.

As part of the eAgreements process, MoDOT uses an electronic signature tool, DocuSign, for signing agreements electronically. All parties of the agreement must agree to sign electronically in order to utilize the electronic signature option. If your proposal is selected, you will be informed about how to obtain your credentials for electronic signatures (including how to become a MoDOT vendor if you are not already).

Standard contracts, forms, attachment templates and additional information are available at <https://www.modot.org/information-researchers>.

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## **Proposal Submission Information**

### **Submission Deadline**

Proposals must be emailed by 10 a.m. (Central) according to the time stamp on the due date indicated. Any form containing a signature line in this RFP and any amendments, pricing pages, etc., can be electronically signed or manually signed and scanned and returned as part of the proposal. Please reference the project number and title since more than one RFP may be due at a time. They are to be emailed to the Research Director at [MoDOTResearchRFP@modot.mo.gov](mailto:MoDOTResearchRFP@modot.mo.gov).

### **Submission Confirmation**

You will receive an email confirmation after your proposal has been received. If you do not receive such a confirmation by noon Central on the day of the deadline, please contact us at [MoDOTResearchRFP@modot.mo.gov](mailto:MoDOTResearchRFP@modot.mo.gov) as soon as possible. Your submission should not be considered received until you have received your email confirmation.

### **Public Inspection**

The Offeror is hereby advised that all proposals and the information contained in or related thereto shall be open to public inspection. MHTC does not guarantee nor assume any responsibility whatsoever in the event that such information is used or copied by individual person(s) or organization(s). Therefore, the Offeror must submit its proposal based on such conditions without reservations.

### **Clarification of Requirements**

Any and all questions regarding specifications, requirements, competitive procurement process, or other questions must be directed to the Research Director at [MoDOTResearchRFP@modot.mo.gov](mailto:MoDOTResearchRFP@modot.mo.gov) by the date and time listed in the project schedule.