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UMD Advanced Transportation Lab Offers States and Cities Free Tool for Complying with Newly Proposed Federal Reporting Rules for Highway Performance

The University of Maryland's [Center for Advanced Transportation Technology \(CATT\) Laboratory](#) has created a suite of tools that states and municipal can use for free to meet new proposed federal requirements for reporting on transportation performance measures including highway congestion and reliability, freight movements, and emissions as proposed under the federal transportation act known as MAP-21 and now implemented under the [newly released rules](#).

"We have taken it on ourselves to build a suite of tools that pulls in national data and can crank out every state's Map-21 performance measures," said CATT Lab Director Michael Pack.

This is a web-based suite of tools that allow state and municipal transportation departments to login, click a few buttons and get their performance measures and metrics based on federal highway system data.

"As a non-profit entity, the CATT Lab's goal has been to solve problems for Federal, State, and Local transportation departments and first responders through technology and data-informed policy guidance. In short, we're offering these tools and our services because it fits within our mission, we feel we have knowledge and tools that can make this less painful for everyone, and it's the right thing to do" says Pack.

MAP-21 stands for the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act. Under this act passed in 2012, the US DOT was required to create a new system to govern how federal dollars are spent by measuring the performance of those dollars against tangible goals and outcomes. The first proposed measure dealt with safety guidelines designed to hold states and metro areas accountable for tracking progress in the reduction of traffic collisions.

The measures in the latest proposed rule would be used by State DOTs and MPOs to assess:

- the performance of the Interstate and non-Interstate [National Highway System \(NHS\)](#);
- freight movement on the Interstate System; and
- traffic congestion and on-road mobile source emissions for the purpose of carrying out the [Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement \(CMAQ\) Program](#).

These new performance measures are the first ever required by the federal government and according to some transportation officials, potentially could revolutionize federal funding of transportation projects in the future.

States interested in making use these UMD assessment tools can visit [this livingwebsite](#), which will be updated regularly with guidance, instructions on how to access the tools, and will include a public forum. The CATT Lab recommends that states first register here for a free Regional

Intelligent Transportation Information System (RITIS) account that will allow transportation officials to see data from their state (if your agency has given provided it to the CATT LAB as many already have). The RITIS account also makes it possible to analyze the FHWA-provided NPMRDS at <http://npmrds.ritis.org>.

[RITIS](#) is an automated data sharing, dissemination, and archiving system that includes many performance measures, a dashboard, and visual analytics tools that help agencies to gain situational awareness, measure performance, and communicate information between agencies and to the public.

To learn more about our other capabilities, the [RITIS platform](#), or anything else the CATT Lab does, please contact the CATT Lab Director, Michael Pack at PackML@umd.edu.