## MTKN Members

### State Departments of Transportation

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### Military Libraries

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### Corporations

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### Friends

Wisconsin Transportation Center, http://www.wistrans.org

### National Transportation Library

http://ntl.bts.gov

### More Information ...

For background on the importance of a knowledge network for transportation:

- "Libraries in a Digital Age: An Essential Resource for Research and Information," March/April 2009 issue of TR News, http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/trnews/trnews261.pdf
- "Transportation Knowledge Networks: A Management Strategy for the 21st Century," TRB Special Report 284, http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/sr/sr284.pdf
- "Implementing Transportation Knowledge Networks," NCHRP Report 643, http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_rpt_643.pdf
- "Transportation Libraries Help Keep DOTs Up to Date," September/October 2003 issue of Public Roads, http://www.tfhrc.gov/pubrds/03sep/iwatch.htm
- "New Search Tool for Transportation Information a Huge Success," The Urban Transportation Monitor, vol. 18, no. 19, October 15, 2004. ( Posted with permission from the publisher at http://www.mtkn.org/pdf/TLCat_UTM.pdf )
- Transportation Information Resource Management: Articles and Reports, Mn/DOT Library, http://www.dot.state.mn.us/library/access.html

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# Making Connections

## The Challenge

Professional engineers, planners and administrators face incredible challenges in trying to meet the country's current and future need for safe, reliable transportation.

Fortunately, research and innovation are a hallmark of transportation in the United States - thanks to the leadership of the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies, the U.S. Department of Transportation, public and private universities, and individual state DOTs. Through their efforts, a continuous stream of new time-and-money-saving technologies is flowing to transportation practitioners.

However…all of this innovation and new information is a challenge in itself. How does the transportation community connect potential users to the new knowledge?
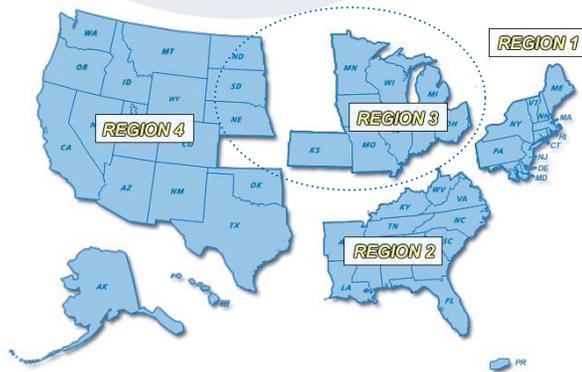
## Our Mission

*Increase collaboration among the region's transportation libraries and information centers so managers, engineers and planners are better able to find and apply the most recent, credible, validated technical information to their current projects.*

# How It All Started
## The NTL and Midwest Libraries Take the Lead

The MTKN was founded in December 2001, through the efforts of the National Transportation Library and Midwest transportation libraries – both at state DOTs and universities. NTL provided dedicated staff to MTKN for a full year and funding to each of the member libraries for two years.



The nine states comprising Region 3 of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (plus South Dakota) are the starting point for what must become a national network. These states are building and maintaining strong transportation collections, including the services of fulltime transportation librarians.

Transportation lags far behind comparable industries, such as agriculture and medicine, in funding library and information services programs. In 2005, the transportation sector in the U.S. accounted for $344.6 billion of the Gross Domestic Product; yet only $1.1 million, less than 0.0003%, was invested in the National Transportation Library.

# Investment Comparisons
## Transportation, Agriculture, Medicine

|  | National Transportation Library | National Agricultural Library | National Library of Medicine |
|---|---|---|---|
| **FY 2005 Funding** | $1,112,043 [1] | $22,413,000 [2] | $317,947,000 [3] |
| **Industry GDP** [4] | $344.6 billion | $123.1 billion | $859.6 billion |
| **National Library Investment as a % of Industry GDP** | 0.0003% | 0.018% | 0.037% |

[1] Director of the National Transportation Library
[2] Administrative Office of the National Agricultural Library
[3] Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005; P.L. 108-447
[4] [GDP] Value Added by Industry, 2002-2005; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Survey of Current Business,* v. 86, no. 12, Dec. 2006

# How We Help Practitioners
## Making Connections

Here are just a few ways in which the MTKN benefits transportation professionals throughout the Midwest – and why a national transportation knowledge network will be of value to every state in the nation.

### Multiplication of Cost Savings
MTKN member libraries can find needed transportation information faster, more completely and at lower costs than can practitioners themselves. One state DOT library estimates that its services contribute $8.3 million annually to the department in reduced costs and added value.

### Improved Access to New Technology
Federal and state agencies invest hundreds of millions of dollars annually in research to fuel innovation. Helping practitioners access these new technologies more effectively will speed implementation, avoid lost opportunities and reduce duplication of already proven approaches.

### Pooling of Indexed Materials through TLCat
A major MTKN initiative was creation of an online "union catalog" of transportation materials. This was accomplished in 2004 with the successful launch of TLCat, which was funded by the NTL in cooperation with the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC). Through TLCat, users can now find reports and other documents of 20 transportation libraries in a single catalog.

### Shared Resources Bring Efficiencies
MTKN members will share specialized items in their collections through rapid, low-cost interlibrary loans and share expertise related to the rapidly expanding science of capturing, indexing and disseminating information in printed and electronic formats.

### Expert Searching and Instruction
Many publications on the Internet are contained within the "deep web." These are the quality resources in library catalogs and publisher databases that are not accessible via general Internet search tools. For example, 65% of recent reports abstracted in TRB's TRIS Online database are not available on the Internet. Transportation librarians are information experts who can navigate the "deep web" to find these reports and also show interested practitioners how to do the same.