



Mining the State DOTs for Transportation Information January 2007

There is so much information available today on the Internet, that it can be a challenge to find what you need. Fortunately, the tools to help us search through the data are improving every day.

Recently, Google developed the Co-op Custom Search Engine to allow users to limit their searches to websites of choice.

The WSDOT Library used this to develop a new search tool to search just the websites of the state DOTs. One interface for the search engine is shown to the right. Users type in their topic and search all the state DOTs and DC with one click of the button.

This new tool can save countless hours compared to the prior practice of one-at-a-time website searches.

Naturally, this search does not – cannot – retrieve internal Intranet web site information. It is limited to the URLs already identified as state DOT domains and are in Google’s index. If you become aware of particular DOT web sites not indexed by the State DOT Search Engine, please contact us at: **library@wsdot.wa.gov**

State DOT Search Engine

Search the websites of the Departments of Transportation from the fifty United States and the District of Columbia.

To search public transit agencies, try:
<http://www.google.com/coop/cse?cx=012995479145342077059%3Aipxox2lxkha>

Creator



Name: WSDOT Library
Member since: Dec 19

Contributors

There are no other contributors at this time.
Sorry, this Search Engine is not open to volunteers. [Learn](#) what volunteering means.

State DOT Search Engine searches 55 sites, including:
<http://www.in.gov/dot/>, http://*.delldot.net/,
http://*.maine.gov/mdot/, http://*.az511.com/,
http://*.delldot.gov/

Last updated: 2 days ago



[Create your own Custom Search Engine.](#)
[Learn more about Google Co-op.](#)

Add this search engine to your [Google homepage](#):

Where to find the search engine:

<http://google.com/coop/cse?cx=006511338351663161139%3Acnk1qdck0dc>

This URL was auto-assigned by Google, and we can't simplify it. Other sites such as the National Transportation Library (<http://ntl.bts.gov/>) are providing links to the site.

More Good Tools

Other transportation-related Search Engines have also recently appeared:

- Public Transit Agencies, developed by Matt Barrett, a librarian at Los Angeles Metro.: <http://www.google.com/coop/cse?cx=012995479145342077058%3Aipxox2lxkha>
- University Transportation Centers developed by Arlene Mathison, librarian at the Center for Transportation Studies (CTS) at University of Minnesota: <http://www.google.com/coop/cse?cx=010809592348763093458:3jsikrwi874>
- Local Technical Assistance Programs (LTAP), Centers also developed at CTS: <http://www.google.com/coop/cse?cx=010809592348763093458%3A3jsikrwi874>
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations, developed by WSDOT: <http://www.google.com/coop/cse?cx=006511338351663161139%3Aktu1nltiojg>

Collaborative work is underway now, coordinated by WSDOT, to build a “mega-transportation” search engine incorporating all of these and more, for the U.S. and Canada.

What People Are Saying:

Feedback regarding the State DOT Search Engine began as soon as it was announced and has been uniformly positive. Within 24 hours, over 35 responses had been received from as far away as Sweden. This is proof of the value of librarian collaboration with one another. Here is a small but illustrative sampling of the many comments we've received:

Thank you for making us aware of your work. Your concept may be of interest to technology transfer centers on a global basis and allow them to conduct searches of DOTs around the world.

Michael Avery
Team Leader
Office of International Programs
Federal Highway Administration

...I have to give you a HUGE THANK YOU for coming up with such a great idea! The DOT folks from all the states are constantly asking each other (and AASHTO) how other states are doing various things, and this tool will be a tremendous benefit in our searches for information!!

You've just made all of our jobs a great deal easier, and for that you should be commended!!

Jim McDonnell, P.E.
Associate Program Director, Engineering
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

Thank you for sharing this very interesting tool. I played around with it for just a few minutes and uncovered more than a dozen documents which we're interested in adding to our collection.

Please keep us in the loop.

Rita [Evans – UC Berkeley Transportation Center]

I just successfully found information I needed from a state DOT website using your search engine. It was easier than searching all of Google.

Jessica Fomalont
Associate Librarian
Transportation Research Board

I thought that I would share with you some of the positive things that people here at KDOT are saying about the search engine you developed and so graciously shared with the transportation community. It has really filled an unmet need and will save untold resources at DOT's across the country. Also you can add in the intrinsic benefits of the reduced frustration factor of not being able to find something or find it quicker. I have another e-mail that said that our BCS internet maintenance group was adding it to our intranet "Useful Links" website.

Thanks for creating this search engine and sharing it with us.

Dick McReynolds
Engineer of Research
Kansas DOT

Dear Members and Colleagues:

Ever wondered how other states handle a given topic?

Ever tried to negotiate their web sites? (Ever try to negotiate your own? Or AASHTO's?)

Well, a gentleman at Washington State DOT named Michel Wendt has developed a Google Search Engine that searches all of the State DOT web sites at once, so you can input your topic of choice and find direct links to all the information that's posted!

This seems like it will be a wonderful tool for finding DOT-specific information, and will certainly reduce the amount of time I spend scouring the web. His contact information is provided below if you want to ask questions or get additional details on his project.

You may wish to share this with others – it is really an excellent resource tool.

Tony Kane
Director, Engineering and Technical Services
AASHTO

Congrats on a great job spotting this innovative new program from Google, and for using it to create something so helpful for transportation researchers! Your e-mails to the list describing the program...reinforce a core value we all share--collaboration...

...[A]s an aside... my boss forwarded to me an e-mail about the tool that had been sent to her from ... a high ranking executive, one of 7 "chiefs" who report directly to the commissioner, and one of many people from various corners of our agency to alert us to your work. This certainly attests to the viral nature of communications these days but it is also a feather in your cap for a job well done...

Funny how sometimes the things you think nobody will notice (or everyone already knows about) are the things people appreciate the most.

Ken Winter, MLIS
Director of Library and Information Services
Virginia Transportation Research Council



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

For additional information contact:

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