

**Ministry of
Transportation**

Office of the Chief
Engineer
4th Floor, Garden City
Tower
301 St. Paul Street
St. Catharines,
ON L2R 7R4

Tel: 289-213-7972

**Ministère des
Transports**

Bureau de l'ingénieur en
chef
4^e étage, tour Garden
City
301, rue St. Paul
St. Catharines
ON L2R 7R4

Tél : 289-213-7972



May 7, 2026

Sherisse Webb

Director, Research Office for Administration, Development and Support McMaster
University

1280 Main Street West Hamilton,
ON L8S 4L8

webbsh@mcmaster.ca

RE: 2026-27 Highway Infrastructure Innovations Funding Program

Dear Ms. Webb:

Thank you for submitting the research proposals to the Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO) Highway Infrastructure Innovation Funding Program (HIIFP). I am pleased to advise that MTO has awarded your institution funds for the fiscal year 2026-27.

The funding is for the eight projects outlined below:

Research Project Title/ Agreement#	Fiscal 2026-27 Allocation	Principal Researcher	Current Year	MTO Contact
Molecular and Microstructural Evaluation of CIR/CIREAM Mixes with Rejuvenator and Cement Additives Agreement # 9026-R-0001	\$50,000	Dr. Susan L. Tighe	Year 1 of 2	Stephen Lee Stephen.Lee@ontario.ca
Integrated Analysis of Climate Vulnerability, Risks and Management Strategies for Optimizing Ontario Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Agreement # 9026-R-0010	\$50,000	Dr. Susan L. Tighe	Year 1 of 2	Kyle Perdue Kyle.Perdue@ontario.ca
Multi-Layered Asset Management Framework for Legacy Traffic Data Collection Infrastructure in Ontario Agreement # 9026-R-0006	\$49,688	Dr. Hao Yang	Year 1 of 1	Justin White Justin.White@ontario.ca
Performance and Resilience of Highway Stormwater and Drainage Systems Under Extreme Rainfall Agreement # 9026-R-0012	\$38,019	Dr. Sonia Hassini	Year 1 of 1	Dr. Yolibeth Mejias Yolibeth.Mejias@ontario.ca
Measuring the Fire Resilience of Bridges in Ontario: Risk- Informed Framework for Assessment and Prioritization Agreement # 9026-R-0013	\$63,488	Dr. Ramla Karim Qureshi	Year 1 of 1	Laura Donaldson Laura.Donaldson4@ontario.ca
Investigating the Role of Pavement Friction in Enhancing Road Safety: A Comprehensive Analysis and Network-Level Validation Agreement # 9025-R-0001	\$50,000	Dr. Susan L. Tighe	Year 2 of 2	Stephen Lee Stephen.Lee@ontario.ca
Corrosion Rates of Steel Piles in Ontario Agreement # 9025-R-0004	\$36,250	Dr. Cancan Yang	Year 2 of 2	Tony Sangiuliano Tony.J.Sangiuliano@ontario.ca
Design of Compression Structural Components within soil Agreement # 9025-R-0005	\$30,625	Dr. Cancan Yang	Year 2 of 2	Ben Huh Ben.huh@ontario.ca

Note that funding multi-year projects is contingent on progress as described in the proposal and submission of a Project Progress Report, every six months, to MTO using the provided template (Form 23-F) in the HIIFP Program Guidelines.

Please ensure that the Principal Researcher is in touch with the MTO Contact before beginning the work to confirm the project resources and schedule, any assistance requested of MTO, meetings and deliverables. Note that all projects require a final technical report to be submitted in accordance with the HIIFP Report Template and the

Technical Report Style Guide for the Engineering Materials Office (EMO), and a presentation to the ministry technical committee as per HIIFP Program Guidelines.

Please send a separate invoice for each project indicating the Agreement Number and your vendor number, for the full amount indicated above to:

HIIFP Coordinator

HIIFP@Ontario.ca

All future correspondence shall be with the HIIFP Coordinator and the MTO Contact. Please indicate the vendor number and the current address/attention to which payment will be mailed for this project. Invoices and all future administrative correspondence must include the Agreement Number shown above.

Please be advised that if principal researchers require the onboarding of staff resources prior to project initiation, the completion date may be extended to September upon notification to the HIIFP coordinator.

The ministry looks forward to working with your institution on these important research projects.

Sincerely,



Alain Beaulieu, P.Eng.
Chief Engineer

Attachment: 2026-27 HIIFP Program Guideline

- c. Stephen Lee (MTO)
- Kyle Perdue (MTO)
- Justin White (MTO)
- Dr. Yolibeth Mejias (MTO)
- Laura Donaldson (MTO)
- Tony Sangiuliano (MTO)
- Ben Huh (MTO)
- HIIFP Coordinator (MTO) <HIIFP@ontario.ca>
- Dr. Susan L. Tighe <tighes1@mcmaster.ca>
- Dr. Hao Yang <yangh149@mcmaster.ca>
- Dr. Sonia Hassini <hassins@mcmaster.ca>
- Dr. Ramla Karim Qureshi <quresr11@mcmaster.ca>
- Dr. Cancan Yang <cancanyang@mcmaster.ca>