

**Ministry of
Transportation**

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June 1, 2026

Dave Dietz
Director of Engineering Research
University of Waterloo
200 University Ave. W.
Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1
dave.dietz@uwaterloo.ca

RE: 2026-27 Highway Infrastructure Innovations Funding Program

Dear Mr. Dietz:

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 three projects outlined below:

Research Project Title/ Agreement #	Fiscal 2026-27 Allocation	Principal Researcher	Current Year	MTO Contact
Re-Evaluation of the Empirical Deck Slab Design Procedures Agreement # 9026-R-0008	\$40,000	Dr. Trevor Hrynyk	Year 1 of 2	Laura Donaldson Laura.Donaldson4@ontario.ca
Leveraging Ontario's Pavement Profiling Data for Advanced Drive-by Structural Health Monitoring of Bridges Agreement # 9026-R-0009	\$108,000	Dr. Alana Lund	Year 1 of 1	Laura Donaldson Laura.Donaldson4@ontario.ca
Using Non-Destructive Testing Methods to Assess the Concrete Condition of Bridge Soffits (with focus on voided slab post-tensioned bridges) Agreement # 9025-R-0006	\$54,875	Dr. Chul Min Yeum	Year 2 of 2	Richard Zhang Richard.Zhang@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. Laura Donaldson (MTO)
- Richard Zhang (MTO)
- HIIFP Coordinator (MTO) < HIIFP@Ontario.ca >
- Dr. Trevor Hrynyk < thrynyk@uwaterloo.ca >
- Dr. Alana Lund < alund@uwaterloo.ca >
- Dr. Chul Min Yeum < cmyeum@uwaterloo.ca >