

**Ministry of
Transportation**

Office of the Chief
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**Ministère des
Transports**

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

Tél : 289-213-7972



June 1, 2026

Lisa Cechetto
Executive Director, Western Research
Western University
1393 Western Road
London, ON, N6G 1G9
lcechett@uwo.ca
researchoffice@uwo.ca

RE: 2026-27 Highway Infrastructure Innovations Funding Program

Dear Ms. Cechetto:

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 project outlined below:

Research Project Title/ Agreement #	Fiscal 2026- 27 Allocation	Principal Researcher	Current Year	MTO Contact
Investigating the Use of AI-Driven Remote Inspection Technologies for Data-Informed Contract Administration, Construction Dispute Analysis, and Future Design Optimization Agreement # 9026-R-0007	\$84,375	Dr. Ayan Sadhu	Year 1 of 1	Rebecca Li Rebecca.Li@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

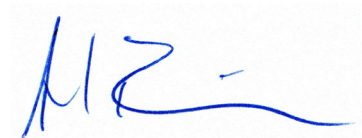
HIIFP@Ontario.ca

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alain Beaulieu', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alain Beaulieu, P.Eng.
Chief Engineer

Attachment: 2026-27 HIIFP Program Guideline

- c. Rebecca Li (MTO)
 HIIFP Coordinator (MTO) <HIIFP@Ontario.ca>
 Dr. Ayan Sadhu <asadhu@uwo.ca>