

**Ministry of
Transportation**

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**Ministère des
Transports**

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June 1, 2026

Joan Broussard
Director, Research Grants
York University
4700 Keele St.
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3
joanb@yorku.ca

RE: 2026-27 Highway Infrastructure Innovations Funding Program

Dear Ms. Broussard:

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 two projects outlined below:

Research Project Title/ Agreement #	Fiscal 2026-27 Allocation	Principal Researcher	Current Year	MTO Contact
Winter Materials Management Leveraging Innovative Technologies Agreement # 9026-R-0005	\$50,000	Dr. Gunho Sohn	Year 1 of 1	Andrew Alkins Andrew.Alkins @ontario.ca
Application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Foundation Engineering Agreement # 9025-R-0003	\$ 77,750	Dr. Rashid Bashir	Year 2 of 2	Hugh Gillen Hugh.Gillen@ 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

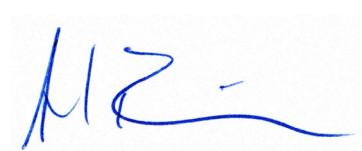
HIIFP@Ontario.ca

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. Hugh Gillen (MTO)
- Andrew Alkins (MTO)
- HIIFP Coordinator (MTO) <HIIFP@Ontario.ca>
- Dr. Gunho Sohn <gsohn@yorku.ca>
- Dr. Rashid Bashir <rbashir@yorku.ca>