



**HART Program**  
**Houston Action Research Team**  
Engaged Research Opportunity  
**Spring 2020**

## **Understanding Local Transportation Spending**

Transportation is a major public issue in the Houston area be it due to safety, connectivity, congestion, pot holes, or accessibility, as well as insufficient sidewalks, mass transit, and micromobility options. Because of its large scope, there are many stakeholders at multiple levels in both the public and private sectors concerned about transportation. Meanwhile, there are a diverse array of transportation projects happening simultaneously with lots of money being spent and questionable accountability regarding public interests. This research supports LINK Houston, a nonprofit that advocates for a robust and equitable transportation network so that all people can reach opportunity, in working to ensure budget transparency to help Houston area residents understand how local government uses transportation-related funding in comparison with the needs of communities and community-expressed priorities.

**During Spring of 2020, this HART (Houston Action Research Team) will:**

- Identify and map stakeholders with a role in transportation with an emphasis on elected officials, offices and agencies in the Houston area
- Create a process map that identifies funding for transportation programs connected to the identified stakeholders
- Collect and reconcile available data on transportation spending with a focus on accountability of funding
- Analyze this data on spending to understand how funding supports community needs
- Complete a written report and oral presentation of findings and recommendations for LINK Houston

**This engaged research opportunity is available to Rice undergraduate students for Spring of 2020.** An interdisciplinary team of four students, each of whom will bring different, but equally important, skills, knowledge, and experiences, will undertake this project. Team members will each work approximately 10 hours per week on this project between January 13<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup> under the guidance of LINK Houston and CCL staff and will receive \$10/hour for their project work. Work time will be flexible, although team members must attend weekly meetings and must coordinate time to work with other team members on the project as needed. Undergraduate students from **all fields of study** with interests and/or skills in at least some of the following areas are encouraged to apply:

Transportation, urban planning, sociology, policy, budging, research design, data analysis, professional writing, public presentations, teamwork, community engagement, non-profits

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE November 24, 2019**  
**To inquire or apply contact Dr. Alan Steinberg, [steinberg@rice.edu](mailto:steinberg@rice.edu)**  
**For more about Rice's HART Program, visit: <http://ccl.rice.edu>**