

The Volpe Center



The Volpe Center is a market-driven Federal resource for innovation in transportation. Part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Research and Special Programs Administration, the Volpe Center develops integrated, multimodal approaches to critical transportation issues.

For over 25 years, the Volpe Center has been applying its unique technical knowledge in planning, research, development, assessment, and technology integration and deployment to enhance the effectiveness and responsiveness of Federal organizations having critical transportation responsibilities.

Established in 1970 by then-Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe, the Center is charged with championing transportation from a systemwide perspective. The Center provides leadership and rapid response with teams of experts from government and industry to help decision makers define problems and pursue solutions necessary to lead transportation into the 21st century.

The Center assists government organizations seeking its expertise in a number of areas, including human factors research; system design and assessment; global tracking, surveillance, and sensor technologies; strategic investment and resource allocation; and organizational effectiveness. In these and other areas, the Center provides its customers with valued policy support and strategic planning and analysis.

In essence, the Volpe Center is a catalyst for innovation – a source of critical insight necessary to realize transportation's promising future.

U.S. Department of Transportation
Research and Special Programs Administration
John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center
Human Resources Management Division, DTS-84
55 Broadway
Kendall Square
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142-1093

The Spirit of Innovation in Transportation

John A. Volpe Transportation Internship



Volpe National Transportation Systems Center

Purpose of Internship

As part of the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center's (Volpe Center's) efforts to identify, attract, and hire the highest quality Federal technical staff for the Volpe Center, we have established a graduate-level transportation internship. This program, initiated by the thirteenth U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Rodney E. Slater, is to recognize the contributions of the second Secretary of Transportation, John A. Volpe. It establishes an internship awarded annually in his name to an exceptional graduate-level scholar.

The internship features major tuition assistance and paid work opportunities at the Volpe Center for outstanding graduate students in the engineering, scientific, and social science disciplines who have expressed an interest in working in the field of transportation. The program will serve as a vehicle for gaining national access to the best pool for new leadership in the field of transportation and expose graduate students to the opportunity to experience the feeling of "making a difference" for their country while working at the Center.



Photo courtesy of the Boston Globe

John A. Volpe was a distinguished businessman, civic leader, Federal administrator, and public servant, who gave of himself so that others might benefit. During his third term as Governor of Massachusetts, John Volpe joined President Nixon's Cabinet on January 20, 1969, as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). In 1970, Secretary Volpe's vision and initiative established DOT's Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts, a Federal fee-for-service research and analysis organization later renamed to honor Secretary Volpe and his many contributions to improving transportation safety, capacity, and efficiency.

Internship Program Features

This is a developmental internship program, where the intern works side-by-side with leaders and experts in the field of transportation.

The internship will be for up to two years, with a provision for renewal for a second year of tuition reimbursement without additional competition. It offers:

- Alternating periods of work and academic study or a continuous period of part-time work while attending school.
- Competitive salary commensurate with level of education and previous professional experience.
- One year tuition reimbursement of up to \$10,000 (depending upon the course curriculum) with potential for a renewable second year. A service agreement will be required to receive the tuition reimbursement.
- Potential for an offer of permanent employment upon graduation.
- Benefits that include vacation and sick time, 401K plan, and transit reimbursement or free parking.
- For relocating students, travel and moving expenses will be reimbursed.

Work Experience: The internship recipient works under the direct supervision of a senior Volpe Center manager on one or more transportation policy or technical-related projects. The project assignments will be chosen based on the recipient's background and career interests and the staffing needs of the Volpe Center. The assignments may relate to any of the DOT strategic transportation goals:

Safety Economic Growth and Trade
Mobility Human and Natural Environment
National Security

The John A. Volpe Transportation Internship recipient will receive a plaque and letter of congratulations from the Secretary of Transportation upon award of the internship.

Open to all students who:

- Are in, or have been accepted into, or have an application pending at, an accredited graduate level program in the engineering, scientific, or social sciences disciplines;
- Are United States citizens; and
- Who have an interest in contributing to the future of the transportation enterprise.

All candidates will be considered regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, or other non-merit factors.

How to Apply

Application package must include:

- A two-page statement of interest which describes interest in the field of transportation and the expected contributions to the DOT strategic goals which will result from the internship;
- A current résumé;
- A list of at least three references who have agreed to be contacted, one of whom must be an academic; and
- Copies of undergraduate and graduate (if applicable) transcripts.

Send complete application package to:

John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center
Human Resources Management Division, DTS-84
55 Broadway
Kendall Square
Cambridge, MA 02142-1093

Application period: February 9 – March 26, 2004.
Package must be received or postmarked by March 26, 2004.

Selection Process:

1. A team of Volpe Center and external experts will evaluate and rank applications.
2. On-site interview conducted in Cambridge for finalists, with all travel and related expenses paid by the Volpe Center.

Selection: May 1, 2004

For additional information on the Volpe Center and this internship, please visit our website at www.volpe.dot.gov or telephone (617) 494-2500.

