

# Put Technology TO WORK

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## UTA Wins Three National Department of Transportation grants

The University of Texas at Arlington has won three national U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) grants that could be worth about \$12 million in funding to UTA during the next five years and speaks to the University's growing expertise across several academic and research disciplines that intersect the nation's current and future transportation infrastructure.

UTA vied in a national competition for \$300 million in U.S. DOT funding allocated to 32 University Transportation Centers across the country. UTA was one of only a few universities to land three projects.

As part of the U.S. DOT funding, UTA won another UTC as part of a Louisiana State University-led



**C-TEDD**

Transportation Consortium of South-Central States in the amount of a planned \$12.5 million over five years.

This consortium aims to support all phases of research, technology transfer, workforce development and

outreach activities of emerging technologies that can solve transportation challenges in the region. Its focus is on improving transportation infrastructure through research into innovative materials and new technology.

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## UTA Researcher Works to Protect Our Cyber Security

Researchers at The University of Texas at Arlington are developing measures to strengthen cyber networks and detect dangerous viruses before they wreak havoc, and protect software critical to wide-ranging research. In a world increasingly dependent on modern technology, the stakes are high.

Jinguo Wang is pioneering research to fight insider threats to banking systems by pinpointing vulnerable spots in networks and developing strategies to mitigate them. Dr. Wang, whose work is funded by the National Science Foundation's Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace initiative, is collaborating with a professor at The University of Texas at San Antonio on the project, which is among the first of its kind. Eventually, the research could help banks, credit unions, credit card companies, and other financial institutions develop software to reduce this risk, such as access-control tools.

Wang says, "Our work will provide a deeper understanding of insider threat behavior in the context of financial institutions," Wang says. "Everyone knows this is a considerable threat, but we do not know how to manage the associated risk."

# Updates

## New Ask Arlington App Makes it Easier for Citizens to Report Problems

The City of Arlington officially launched the app, free for Android and Apple devices on January 10, 2017. Through the Ask Arlington app, users can report common complaints such as overgrown weeds and grass, barking dogs or vehicles parked in a yard. Apartment tenants can also turn to the app to report conditions such as insect infestations, no air conditioning or heat, or lack of hot water, for inspection.

The app allows users, who can remain anonymous, to upload photos and videos to provide City departments more information about the issue they are reporting. Users can also track the real-time progress of how their complaint is handled, including whether a notice of violation was issued.

"We encourage residents to report problems they see, whether it's a burnt out street light, graffiti or a dilapidated fence, to help the City keep our neighborhoods, parks, streets and business areas safer, more attractive and clean," Marketing Communications

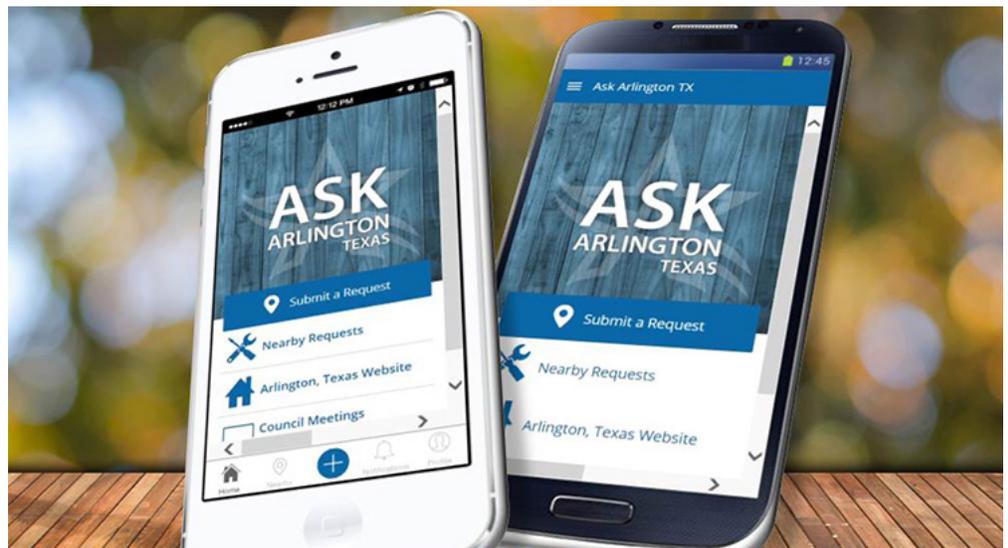
Manager Jay Warren said.

City officials say the Ask Arlington app is a convenient alternative to the Action Center hotline, 817-459-6777, which receives more than 350,000 calls a year.

"There's no wait time," Action Center Manager Gil Mesa said. "The app is user friendly and very intuitive. Hopefully this will encourage more citizens to become involved and contact us."

The app also makes it easier for non-English speaking residents to make a complaint, Mesa said. Users can submit their information in one of more than 100 languages, which will be translated by the app into English for the City. Responses will also be translated to the user's chosen language.

The Ask Arlington app aligns with the City Council priorities to Champion Strong Neighborhoods and Put Technology to Work by tapping into existing smart device technology to create another way for citizens to become involved in the health of their communities.



# Highlights

## **AISD, Moritz Dealerships Partner for Automotive Technology Program**

The Arlington ISD has formed a partnership with Moritz Dealerships to design the curriculum and fund all the equipment for the new Moritz Automotive Technology Program at the AISD Career and Technical Center, which will open in fall 2017.

“We are pleased to partner with Moritz Dealerships for this unique program at our new Career and Technical Center,” AISD Superintendent Dr. Marcelo Cavazos said. “This program will prepare 100 students each year to enter the workforce as an entry-level service technician through certification and dual-credit courses.”

The automotive technology program



will prepare AISD students to enter the automotive service industry in the areas of brake systems, electrical systems, engine performance, and steering and suspensions systems.

“Partnering with the district to provide this unique opportunity for students will equip them

with the knowledge and skills needed to build brighter futures,” said John David Moritz, president of Moritz Dealerships.

The Moritz Automotive Technology Program is one of several strong community partnerships that support the district and its programs.



## **Ask Arlington: Putting Technology to Work with AMI Meters**

“Ask Arlington” is a show dedicated to answering the questions you have about what’s happening in our city. Recently, the show featured Darryl Westbrook with the Arlington Water Utilities Department who answered questions about AMI meters and their effect on City of Arlington residents.

AMI stands for Automated Metering Infrastructure. The AMI meters collect usage data electronically daily as opposed to a monthly reading by a city employee. Currently, the City has a 10-year pilot project program in place where they will install these new meters in Arlington. This project will not impact the employees or residents financially.

AMI meters represent a significant improvement over previous metering technology. The meters will allow Arlington Water Utilities and their customers to have better billing and water consumption data.

Look out for the next installment of “Ask Arlington” via the City’s social media channels or cable systems.

Quarterly

Police Dept. Parks & Rec. City Hall

# Social Media



92,021 followers  
4.5% growth



23,812 followers  
1.1% growth



31,369 followers  
2.1% growth

by the Numbers

## Top facebook Post



Thanks for the recognition of this compassionate deed by Officer Stafford!

201,202 REACHED

3,251 LIKES

1,250 SHARES

## UTA Researcher Earns TxDoT Contract to Use Unmanned Aerial Systems

Researchers at The University of Texas at Arlington will lead a collaborative effort to use unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) to inspect highways and railroads remotely and develop guidelines for how to safely complete the task.

Civil Engineering Professor Anand Puppala is the primary investigator on the two-year, \$770,909 Texas Department of Transportation agreement.

Puppala and post-doctoral researchers Tejo Bheemasetti and Ujwal Patil, as well as Mike McNair and Cody Lee Lundberg from the UTA Research Institute, will use UTA's share of the funding, \$388,000, to determine how to use unmanned aerial vehicles.

The UAVs also will collect data on the condition of railroad tracks and crossings on a section of track in south central Texas. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) will develop procedural guidelines and best practices for the use of UAVs for this purpose.

Speed, safety and cost are the advantages of using UAVs instead of people on-site, Puppala explained.

The Aibot X6, built by Aibotix, is a UAV that UTA could use in its contract with the Texas Department of Transportation to inspect roads and bridges more efficiently. Photo courtesy of Aibotix.

"It is safer and less expensive to use a UAV to check pavement performance characteristics because there is no need to close lanes and a person doesn't have to be on the roadway or on active railroad tracks," Puppala said. "The high-resolution photos that we will receive will provide as much information as an instrument on the pavement."

