

TRAC™ and RIDES Program Fast Facts

TRAC and RIDES, AASHTO's educational outreach programs, are designed for use in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) classes. The



hands-on activities introduce students in grades K–12 to the work world of transportation and civil engineering

and inspire them to consider careers in those fields. Both programs are aligned with national standards. State departments of transportation work with schools in their state by providing the curricula and resources for the schools as well as providing engineers to visit the classrooms to serve as speakers, teach a hands-on activity, and or talk to students about the importance of math and science in preparing for their future.

TRAC (Transportation and Civil Engineering)

Teachers are supplied with a "Transportation Research Activities Center" or TRAC PAC. The latest version is TRAC PAC 2, eight self-contained education modules featuring professionally developed curricula that meet national standards of learning. Each module contains the equipment, software and supplies needed to perform over 75 hands-on activities related to:

- Bridge Design • Highway Safety
- Magnetic Levitation • Design and Construction • Motion
- Environmental Engineering,
- Traffic Technology, and
- Connected and Automated Vehicles

RIDES (Roadways In Developing Elementary Students)

Teachers attend two days of hands-on training and receive a curriculum aligned with National Math and Science Standards. The units titled *Transporta-*

tion and Energy, Roadway Geometry, Humans and Nature, and Designing Ways take students on multiple adventures learning about transportation in relation to both math and science concepts. Activities include classification, sequencing, measuring, graphing, predicting, inferring and experimenting.

Program Structure

- State Departments of Transportation pay a membership fee of \$14,000 annually
- DOTs recruit schools to use the TRAC Program and place TRAC PACs in the schools
- Volunteer transportation professionals and civil engineers from the DOT and private sector work directly with teachers and students in the classroom to support the TRAC Curricula, enhance the teachers' lessons, and mentor the students.



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