Iowa State University is selected to manage one of only 10 statewide pilot programs in the country to provide transportation technology transfer and related services to small urban and rural areas.

Stanley Ring led a $100,000 local technology transfer program that created the Local Transportation Information Center (LTIC), known today as the Iowa Local Technical Assistance Program (Iowa LTAP).

Stanley Ring retires and Tom Maze becomes the LTIC director. Iowa State wins the University Transportation Center Program (UTC) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The UTC grant funds the Midwest Transportation Center, under the direction of Ben Allen.

LTAP launches Safety Circuit Rider program with Ed Bigelow, a retired Ida County engineer, as Iowa's—and the nation's—first ever safety circuit rider.

A gallon of regular gas cost $1.16 in 1983 and the most popular car in the US was the Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme.

The law mandating seatbelt use was enacted in 1986.

The top selling car in the US in 1988 was the Ford Escort.
1990  Leadership of the UTC grant transitions from Ben Allen to Tom Maze.

The LTAP and UTC activities are merged under one organizational structure, the Iowa Transportation Center (ITC), with Maze as director. A strong partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) continues to grow, and the ITC’s overall research, education, and outreach programs flourish.

1994  The ITC has matured into a nationally recognized, multimillion-dollar-a-year program.

1996  The center’s name is changed to the Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE).

The first Mid-Continent Transportation Research Symposium is held.

1997  CTRE signs a multiyear agreement with the Iowa DOT to regularize financial support of CTRE’s programs.

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Moviegoers viewed racecar action in Days of Thunder with Tom Cruise in 1990.

In 1995, the Iowa Legislature raised the speed limit on many of Iowa’s four-lane, divided highways from 55 mph to 65 mph.

Ford F-series pickups were the top selling vehicles in the US in 1997 and for many years after.
CTRE launches several new divisions—pavements, bridges and structures, traffic engineering and traffic safety, and policy—and moves into a larger facility. Stephen Andrle succeeds Maze as CTRE’s director. The Center for Portland Cement Concrete Pavement Technology is created.

CTRE undertakes oversight of Iowa’s Statewide Urban Design and Specifications (SUDAS) manuals.

CTRE conducts its first National Cooperative Highway Research Program-funded project.

CTRE, with the help of the Iowa DOT and industry sources, purchases and equips two mobile research laboratories that travel the country performing research related to concrete paving and geotechnical materials.

The Center for Weather Impacts on Mobility and Safety is created.


Regular gas was $1.59 a gallon in the US in 2003.
2005  The Center for Portland Cement Concrete Pavement Technology assumes a new, national identity and name—the National Concrete Pavement Technology Center.

2007  Shashi Nambisan becomes CTRE’s third director.

     CTRE now manages 11 long-term programs and won a nationally competitive, three-year Tier-1 UTC contract to operate the Midwest Transportation Consortium.

2009  CTRE undergoes a status change from a university center to an ISU institute and receives a new name: Institute for Transportation (InTrans).

     CTRE remains a center within InTrans.

2010  Partnering with the FHWA, Forest Products Laboratory, and National Park Service, the Bridge Engineering Center (BEC) at InTrans oversees a national cooperative research program, the National Center for Wood Transportation Structures.

The speed limit on Interstate highways in Iowa was raised from 65 mph to 70 mph in 2005.

Moviegoers were laughing at the race cars (and drivers) in Talladega Nights and Cars #1 in the summer of 2006.

The average travel time to work for Americans was 25+ minutes in 2010.

Americans took 10.7 billion trips on public transportation in 2008, the highest level of ridership in 52 years.
2011 InTrans’s geotechnical program becomes the Center for Earthworks Engineering Research (CEER) to reflect its expanded global partnerships and activities and sponsorship of a new, one-of-a-kind graduate degree program in geo-construction.

2012 InTrans oversees seven university centers and eight long-term funded programs.

2013 InTrans is awarded federal UTC funding totaling $2.52 million per year over the next two years to establish and lead the Midwest Transportation Center.

2014 Shauna Hallmark is named as InTrans director in February.

The doors opened on the new Traffic Operations Laboratory, a teaching and research lab that houses state-of-the-art technologies and provides real-time operations data.

In a study conducted to comply with NHTSA requirements, ISU researchers determine that Iowa’s overall seat belt use in 2012 is 92.38%.

In 2013, the Iowa DOT celebrated 100 years in transportation at its headquarters in Ames.
2014 CTRE embarked on three national safety-related projects related to driver distraction, in collaboration with three Midwest DOTs (Iowa, Minnesota, and Michigan).

2015 Iowa LTAP helped begin a new Iowa traffic safety effort, the Statewide Multi-disciplinary Safety Team (MDST), to better coordinate interagency activity and information exchange with the Iowa DOT and the Iowa Governors Traffic Safety Bureau.

2016 The first Innovations in Transportation Conference is held.

2017 InTrans held more than 100 events with state and local agencies that had more than 3,600 participants.

InTrans joins with three other Midwest universities on a five-year $1.5 million FHWA grant to examine ways to improve work zone safety.

2018 InTrans marks 30 years since its establishment with a public reception.

In Iowa, gasoline taxes are 22 cents per gallon in 2015; Pennsylvania adds a 50.5 cents tax per gallon, highest in the country.

In 2017, a gallon of regular gas costs $2.49. The top selling car is the Honda Civic.

2018 ISU Day at the Capitol
The Institute for Transportation at Iowa State University administers 15 centers and programs.

Bridge Engineering Center (BEC)
Center for Earthworks Engineering Research (CEER)
Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE)
Center for Weather Impacts on Mobility and Safety (CWIMS)
Midwest Transportation Center (MTC)
National Center for Wood Transportation Structures (NCWTS)
National Concrete Pavement Technology (CP Tech) Center
Asphalt Materials and Pavements Program (AMPP)

AURORA Program
Construction Management and Technology (CMAT) Program
Iowa Local Technical Assistance Program (Iowa LTAP)
Iowa Statewide Urban Design and Specifications (Iowa SUDAS)
Program for Sustainable Pavement Engineering and Research (ProSPER)
Smart Work Zone Deployment Initiative (SWZDI)
Real Time Analytics of Transportation Data (REACTOR) Laboratory

From big data to driver behavior and from preservation to education, InTrans focuses on research and service that impact transportation now and into the future.