

# National University Rail Center of Excellence opens at UIUC

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FRA Administrator Amit Bose (second from left) was among officials attending a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the National University Rail Center of Excellence on the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus.

Photo – Federal Railroad Administration/X

Government and education officials were on hand yesterday to mark the opening of the National University Rail Center of Excellence (NURail CoE) on the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)

The NURail CoE is a consortium of nine universities and is the first academic research and education center to be supported by Federal Railroad Administration

Last year, the FRA awarded a \$5 million grant to UIUC as the lead institution for the fiscal-year 2022-2023 Rail Research and Development Center of

Excellence program. The funds supported the opening of NURail CoE. The center's mission is to "develop solutions that will lead to a safer, more efficient, sustainable, equitable and reliable rail transportation system in the United States and advance U.S. Department of Transportation goals," according to a UIUC press release.

NURail CoE comprises a consortium of University of Illinois Chicago; University of Delaware; Kansas State University; Michigan Technological University; Morgan State University; Rutgers University; University of Texas at Austin and Tuskegee University.

Under the NURail CoE program, the FRA provided up to 50% of the cost of establishing and operating the center and supporting research activities. Each of the nine universities will contribute a portion of the total nonfederal match.

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