Title:	Developing a Small Airport Economic Impact Estimator
The Problem:	The Texas Department of Transportation Aviation Division periodically conducts a statewide economic impact study to determine the economic benefits provided by the Texas airport system; however, for many airports, there is a further need to be able to determine their economic impact. The reasons for this are: 1. Many airports are not included in the analysis because of their small size. 2. Some airports have seen activity that has sufficiently changed between studies. This renders the previously determined numbers outdated. 3. Some airports would like to have more detailed economic impact analysis conducted beyond that which can be provided by a study that must examine 300 airports. Because many local officials use these numbers to justify grant-matching funds and investment in their airports, it is important to have current data available for decision-making.
Technical Objectives:	The researchers shall address the following: 1. Conduct a focused review of airport economic impact modeling in terms of both methodology and data needs, including those that are Texas and industry specific including aircraft use, travel patterns, visitor spending data and local/regional economic multipliers. 2. Develop an economic impact estimator model for small airports that will include a web-based user interface for easy use. 3. Validate the model output using results from previous analyses using different economic models. The expectation of this project is that the end product will obtain a TRL level 6.
Desired Deliverables:	1. Technical memorandum for each task completed. 2. Monthly progress reports. 3. Value of Research (VoR) that includes both qualitative and economic benefits, to be included in the final research report. 4. Product - A web-based economic impact model that will calculate the economic impacts of small airport activity, including a User's guide for using the model. 5. Research report documenting the findings of the research, including the model development and model validation efforts. 6. Project Summary Report.
Proposal Requirements:	1. Utilize the “Proj/Agre” and “PA_Form” templates located at the TxDOT RTI website. 2. Proposals will be considered non-responsive and will not be accepted for technical evaluation if they are not received by the deadline or do not meet the requirements stated in RTI's University Handbook, which is also located at the RTI website. 3. Proposals should be submitted in PDF format, 1 PDF file per proposal. File name should include project name and university abbreviation. 4. This project will be tracked during the life of the project using a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) scale. For more information about the use of a TRL, click.