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 and are currently being aligned with Core Curriculum Standards of Learning. 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. Included in each module are a teacher reference guide, a volunteer guidebook, and a movie showing how each activity works. Each module contains the equipment, software and supplies needed to perform up to 75 hands-on activities related to:
• Bridge Design
• Highway Safety
• City Planning
• Magnetic Levitation
• Design and Construction Motion
• Environmental Engineering Traffic Technology

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 and the Core Curriculum Standards. The units titled Transportation 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 $7,000.00 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.