Introducing Rowan’s new CREATEs facility

Its part move no more than 2.5 miles per hour, but the equipment housed in a hangar just off Route 322 and 55 on Rowan’s West Campus may be the link to transportation innovation for the Garden State and the nation.

The equipment is a 50-ton Heavy Vehicle Simulator (HVS), and its home is the brand new Center for Research and Education in Advanced Transportation Engineering systems (CREATEs) at the South Jersey Tech Park at Rowan University.

A 50-foot by 90-foot structure that, in addition to the HVS, includes offices and space to run tests as well as an outdoor testing environment that can be designated for specific types of materials and clients. CREATEs will employ up to 10 personnel in the first two years. Those professionals will be able to test asphalt, concrete, other design or construction materials, soils and more in climate-controlled environments.

The State of New Jersey, the U.S. Department of Defense/Army Corps of Engineers and the New Jersey Department of Transportation helped fund CREATEs with $5 million, investing in a facility where researchers will be able to mimic a decade’s worth of wear and tear on roadways and landing strips in less than a year.

Rowan is the only college or university in the Northeast to house an HVS, and that means teams of students and faculty will partner with and conduct research for state entities and manufacturers to improve roadways, reduce environmental impacts and more.