

TRB Cooperative Research Programs

How (and Why) to get involved

MoDOT Transportation Research Forum
Branson, Missouri
March 17, 2009

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1920 - Formation of
NRC Advisory
Committee on
Highway Research

1924 –Highway
Research Board

1974 – Transportation
Research Board

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First TRB Annual Meeting, 1922

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TRB Annual Meeting

- ~10,000 attendees
- Over 500 sessions, 2,500+ presentations
- 350 TRB committee meetings
- 150 other meetings



TRB TODAY

- **All modes**
- **480 Committees and Panels**
- **4,600 Committee Members**
- **120 Staff**
- **\$50 Million Budget**
- **150 Reports per Year**

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TRB TODAY

Services

- Information Exchange
- Research Management
- Policy Analysis and Advice
- Publications and Research Information

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TRB Standing Committees: What do they do?

- Identify research needs
- Encourage needed research
- Sponsor sessions, conferences and meetings
- Generate papers and reports
- Disseminate information

TRB Standing Committees: Why Get Involved?

To learn, to educate, to influence

- Keep up to date on latest research and issues
- Get to know leaders in profession
- Leaders in profession get to know you!
- Become part of a community

“The idea of life is to give and receive” – Dizzy Gillespie

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TRB Committees: *How do I become involved?*

- Visit TRB website (www.TRB.org)
- Review scopes of committees of interest
- Click on the name of chair or staff representative to generate email, and ...
 - **Provide a summary of your background and interest**

TRB Cooperative Research Programs

Program	Established	\$ M/year
NCHRP (Highways)	1962	36
TCRP (Transit)	1992	9
ACRP (Airports)	2004	10
NCFRP (Freight)	2006	2.6
HMCGRP (HazMat)	2006	0.9

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Why Cooperative Research?

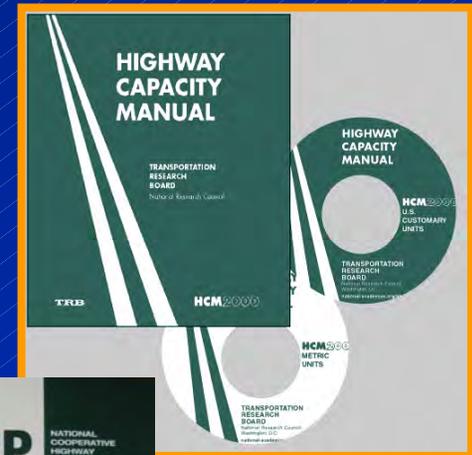
- Leverage funding, reduce duplication
- Stakeholder involvement ensures relevance and accountability
- Partnerships foster trust and research on common interests
- National Academies brings credibility, continuity, objectivity

NCHRP

- “AASHTO’s Research Program”
- State DOT support
- Formed in 1962
- Applied Research Focus
- Typical project \$250-500,000; 2 years

APPLIED Research:

- AASHTO Guides and Specifications
- Guides for practitioners
- Syntheses of Practice
- New or improved models/tools
- Improved operations and services
- Testing/evaluation techniques



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Financial Support

- From State Departments of Transportation
- With 5 1/2% of State Planning and Research funds (voluntary contribution)
- SPR = 2% of Federal Aid Highway apportionment

The NCHRP Process



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Problem Statements:

- Annual solicitation (June)
- General description of problem or research need
- Three sources:
 - **State Departments of Transportation**
 - **AASHTO committees and subcommittees**
 - **Federal Highway Administration**
 - ???

How can I get my problem statement selected?

NCHRP problem statements must be ...

- Understandable
- Original
- Achievable
- Affordable
- Implementable
- Beneficial
- National in Scope
- High priority
- Widely supported, esp. by DOTs and AASHTO committees

“How to write an effective problem statement”

See: *Funding Sources for Transportation Research:
Competitive Programs*, Appendix B

<http://www.trb.org/ResearchFunding/index.asp>

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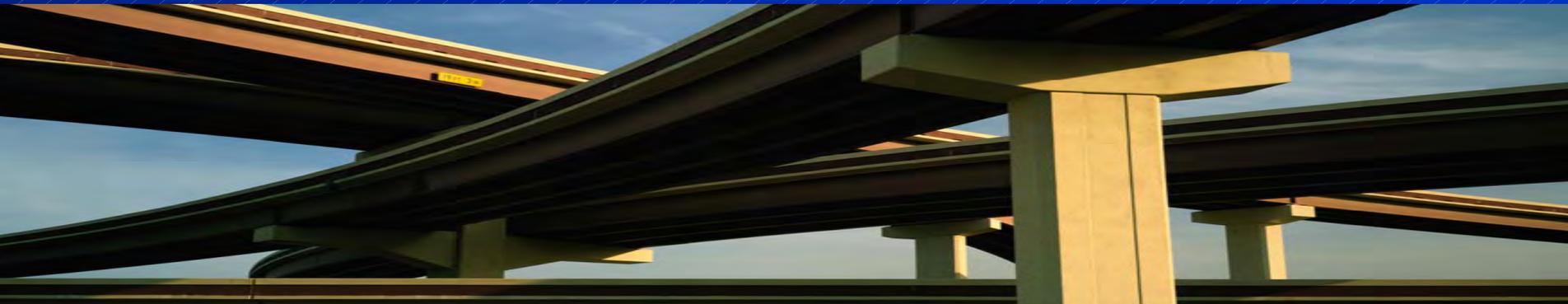


Problem statements reviewed by:

- NCHRP and FHWA staff
- AASHTO Research Advisory Committee
- AASHTO Standing Committee on Research

Projects selected by:

- AASHTO Standing Committee on Research - SCOR
- = 16 DOT representatives
- = Four members from each AASHTO region
- = 2 senior management, 2 research managers



Formation of Advisory Panels

- Experts in subject matter
- Typically 8 members
- 4-5 State DOT
- Academia, Associations, Private Sector, Local Gov't
- Liaison member from FHWA

-
- Why serve on NCHRP panels?
 - How do I submit my nomination?
 - Through AASHTO Research Advisory Committee Members
(see Research.Transportation.org)
 - Directly to NCHRP

-
- Who can submit proposals (and how)?
 - Don't the same old contractors get all the work?

NCHRP Contractors

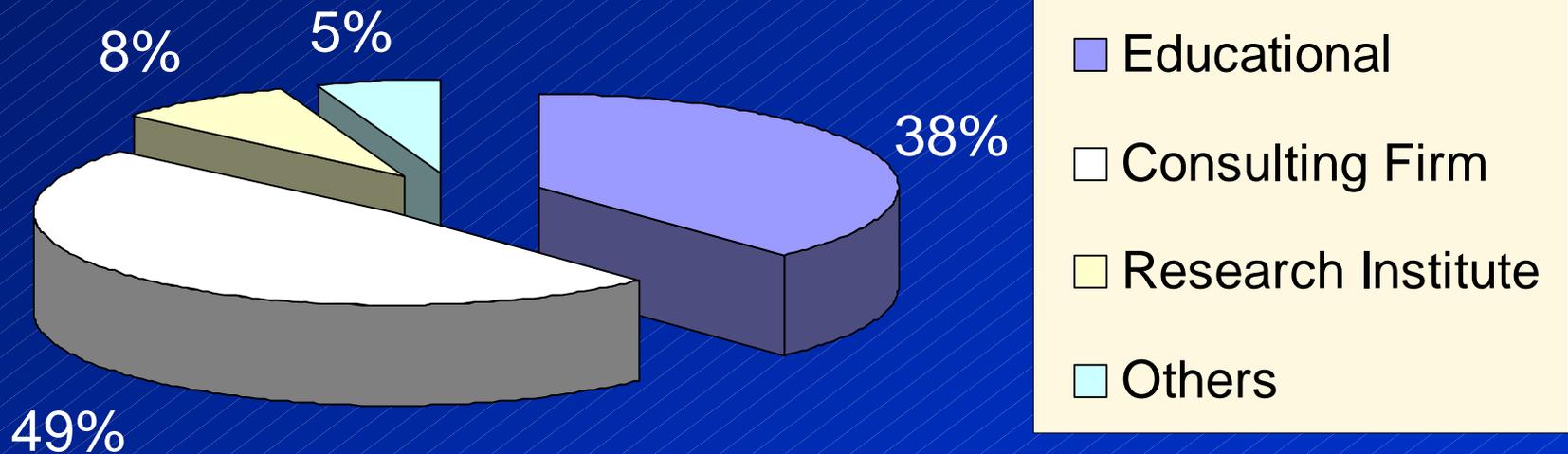
1963 - 2000:

- 832 Projects Contracted
- 318 Different Agencies

1991-2000:

- Of 225 New Contracts...
- 64 were 1st Time Contractors

NCHRP Contracts - Agency Type



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How can I be successful?

- Good experience, esp. in DOTs
- “Add value” to the RFP
- Research plan has a high probability of success
- Team is knowledgeable and flexible
- Practical and implementable results

How to get *another* contract:

Remember that NCHRP Projects...

- Are CONTRACTS, not grants
- Produce a PRODUCT
- Are high PROFILE
- Are managed by COMMITTEE consensus
- Rely on E-MAIL communication
- Need regular STATUS REPORTS
- Require contractors to be PROACTIVE and REACTIVE

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The three most important success factors?

1. Networking
2. Networking
3. Networking

NCHRP website trb.org/nchrp

The screenshot displays the NCHRP website interface. At the top, the TRB logo and the text 'TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES' are visible. Below this is a navigation menu with links for 'About TRB', 'Annual Meeting', 'Calendar', 'Committees & Panels', 'News', 'Programs', 'Publications', 'Resources & Databases', 'Contact TRB', and 'Search TRB'. The main content area is titled 'Cooperative Research Programs' and contains a paragraph describing the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP), Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP), Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP), National Cooperative Freight Research Program (NCFRP), and Hazardous Materials Cooperative Research Program (HMCRRP). It lists various projects and reports, including 'HMCRP announces its FY 2009 projects (PDF)', 'NCFRP announces its FY 2009 projects (PDF)', 'TCRP announces its FY 2009 projects (PDF)', 'ACRP announces its FY 2009 projects (PDF)', and 'NCHRP announces its FY 2009 projects (PDF)'. It also mentions a survey conducted in 2008 and the availability of software for evaluation at <http://www.trb.org/mepdgy>. A sidebar on the left contains navigation links for 'CRP Projects', 'NCHRP', 'TCRP', 'ACRP', 'NCFRP', 'HMCRRP', and 'Publications'. At the bottom, there is a search bar with the text 'Find: give' and navigation buttons for 'Next', 'Previous', 'Highlight all', and 'Match case'.

- Information on all TRB cooperative research
- Search engine
- Project Info since 1988: Anticipated / Active / Completed
- CRP publication lists / ordering info
- Requests for proposals
- Registration form for notification of RFPs

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