

NCHRP PROJECTS

HOW RESEARCH IDEAS BECOME A REALITY
THROUGH THE AASHTO PROCESS

AASHTO

- ◆ Member States
- ◆ Subcommittees and Committees
- ◆ Research Advisory Committee (RAC)
- ◆ Standing Committee on Research (SCOR)
- ◆ Board of Directors (BOD)

AASHTO Members

- ◆ State Departments of Transportation
- ◆ Associate Membership

RAC Membership

- ◆ Voting members:
 - ◆ 1 vote each AASHTO member state (3 members per state)
- ◆ Non-voting Associate members:
 - ◆ Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
 - ◆ Transportation Research Board (TRB)
 - ◆ Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA)
 - ◆ U.S. Transportation Organizations or International Transportation Research Representatives

RAC Responsibilities

- ◆ Facilitates the work of SCOR
- ◆ Identifies and addresses research issues affecting program and project management among AASHTO Member Departments.
- ◆ Works with AASHTO Member Departments to facilitate development of research problem statements for consideration by SCOR and incorporation into the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP)
- ◆ Participates in rating NCHRP problem statements each year and provides the results to SCOR for its annual selection procedure.

SCOR Responsibilities

- ◆ Encourage and assist other AASHTO committees and subcommittees to identify research needs, define research emphasis areas, and utilize research findings.
- ◆ Solicit research problem statements from the Member Departments, AASHTO committees, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); screen the submittals; prioritize them; and recommend annual programs of NCHRP for consideration by AASHTO's Board of Directors.
- ◆ Monitor the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) performance as program manager for the NCHRP.

SCOR Responsibilities

- ◆ Monitor the NCHRP and make appropriate recommendations and reports to AASHTO.
- ◆ Review, observe, and encourage the effective use of research funding, and recommend appropriate funding levels.
- ◆ Serve as a forum, coordinating committee, and advocate for highway and other transportation research on behalf of AASHTO and its Member Departments.
- ◆ Review, monitor, and foster coordination of the various national programs of highway and other transportation research.
- ◆ Study and foster the role of industry in highway and other transportation research.

National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP)

- ◆ NCHRP is sponsored by AASHTO in cooperation with the FHWA and is administered by the Cooperative Research Programs (CRP) Division of the TRB
- ◆ Created in 1962 to accelerate research in acute problem areas
- ◆ Highway planning, design, construction, operations, and maintenance

AASHTO/NCHRP Program

- ◆ Pooling state resources enables a concerted attack on the major problems faced by Member Departments

Research Program Formulation

- ◆ AASHTO is solely responsible for the annual NCHRP program until the program is referred to the TRB for administration.
- ◆ Before the program is referred, the TRB is involved in two respects:
 1. NCHRP Director serves as the Secretary for AASHTO's Standing Committee on Research (SCOR)
 2. NCHRP staff provides evaluations of the problem submittals.

Problem Submittal Process

AASHTO's SCOR solicits problems from three authorized sources:

- ◆ AASHTO Member Departments,
- ◆ AASHTO Committees and Subcommittees, and
- ◆ FHWA.

Problem Statements Solicited July - September

Balloting and Selection

- ◆ Each submittal is reviewed by FHWA and NCHRP staff
- ◆ Each year in December, a compilation of candidates for NCHRP funding (i.e., the continuation projects and new problems) goes to SCOR with a ballot for rating the problems according to priority

Rating Considerations

- ◆ Is the proposed problem of interest to all or many of the states and can it be handled more effectively under a cooperative program than by an individual state highway or transportation department?
- ◆ Does the proposed problem represent an immediate research need in the transportation field?
- ◆ Are similar efforts already under way or satisfactory answers already available?
- ◆ What is the probability of success in completing the problem according to its scope, estimated cost, and time for completion?

Problem Selection for Funding

- ◆ SCOR determines which new problem submittals should be programmed and which completed or ongoing projects should receive continuation funding for further work.
- ◆ Research Committee report is sent to the AASHTO Board of Directors requesting approval of the program. The final program for each year consists of those continuations and new problems that receive a favorable vote by two-thirds or more of the Member Departments

Schedule of Events Relative to FY 2013 NCHRP Program

July 2011	SCOR Secretary solicits FY 2013 problems
September 2011	End date for problem statements
November 2011	SCOR Secretary responds to submitters of problem statements
November 2011	End date for submitter responses on problem statements
December 2011	SCOR Secretary mails continuations and new problem candidates with ballots to SCOR
February 2012	Ballots due from SCOR Members
March 2012	SCOR Secretary mails ballot summary report to SCOR
March 2012	SCOR Meeting
April-May, 2012	SCOR prepares, prints, & delivers Committee report to AASHTO
April 11, 2012	TRB solicits for panel nominees
June 30, 2012	TRB sends states' ballot & referral to the National Academies
July-December, 2012	NCHRP Staff and project panels hold panel meetings to formulate projects & select agencies
December 2012	AASHTO approves agencies selected
February 2013	FHWA authorizes fiscal year 2013 expenditures
February 2013	Target for contracting

Questions????