

TRB – FHWA RESEARCH SUPPORT

STATUS REPORT

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 10, 2019

ARNOLD AND MABEL BECKMAN CENTER

IRVINE, CALIFORNIA



Background

FHWA RD&T (Turner Fairbank) is focused on the mission and priorities identified in FHWA's Research and Technology Agenda:

(1) Advancing safety toward zero deaths, (2) Improving the mobility of people and goods, (3) Preserving the nation's infrastructure, (4) Enhancing system performance, (5) Promoting environmental sustainability, and (6) Preparing for the future.

FHWA approached TRB in December 2018 to explore partnering on some of its RD&T activities.

In May 2019 RTCC agreed to take on an oversight role.

Two Components:

Program Evaluations

Provide assistance to FHWA to assess and communicate the benefits of its R&T efforts and, where appropriate, provide recommendations to ensure that the organization is expending public resources efficiently and effectively.

Research Support (Contracting and Management)

Provide for competitive, merit-based selection of research institutions, research project oversight, and dissemination of research results. The process mirrors that used by the NCHRP.

Oversight Role of RTCC

For research support ...

Review of process and findings via annual status reports, handled during regular RTCC meetings.

For program evaluation ...

Review of (1) annual program status reports, and (2) individual program evaluation reports and - as appropriate - recommendations to FHWA (approx. 2 per year), handled during regular meetings or by conference call.

Initial Projects:

Research Support (Ed Harrigan):

- Quality Assurance Aspects of Performance Related Specifications
- BIM for Infrastructure

Program Evaluation (Andy Lemer):

- Performance-related specs
- Asphalt binder quality tester

Research Support Status Report:

1. Quality assurance aspects of performance-related specifications
2. BIM for infrastructure - Building the business case and leveraging asset data.

- Panels have been formed; 1st meetings held
- RFPs released
- Proposals expected in December

Program Evaluation Status Report:

- Evaluation of specific projects within the FHWA research program
- Quantitative, indicative of observable contributions of research results to FHWA's mission and ROI on public funds

- Competitive procurement, evaluation contractor selected; contract being developed
- Initial project designated: Asphalt Binder Quality Tester; scope and budget TBD
- Formation of initial TRB Project Panel anticipated in January 2010

Program Evaluation

Anticipated Working Relationships

- FHWA + TRB agree on topic, parameters of evaluation, and budget
- TRB/NASEM appoints Evaluation Project Panel
- Contractor, with TRB and FHWA, develops Evaluation Scoping Report and Project Evaluation Report
- TRB and contractor present Project Evaluation Report to RTCC, FHWA

Program Evaluation Evaluation Project Panels

- 5 to 7 members, DivComm approved
 - 1 member from RTCC
 - State DOT representatives, as significant research-product users
 - Academic and private-sector representatives
 - FHWA liaison (not a voting member)
- Web conferences and 1 or 2 in-person meetings
- Document reviews and comment