Evaluating Implementation of NCHRP Products:

Views of Panel Members, State DOTs, National Organizations

Project NCHRP 20-44(P)

Pat Casey, CTC & Associates
AASHTO Research Advisory Committee meeting
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
July 18, 2013

Overview

NCHRP 20-44(P)

- Background
- Opportunity
- Goals
- Plan
- Deliverables
- Progress to date

Project Team

- Transportation Research Board
  - Crawford Jencks
    Manager, NCHRP
  - Nanda Srinivasan
    Senior Program Officer
- State DOT Advisers
  - Michael Bonini
    Manager, Research Division, PennDOT
  - David Jared
    Chief, R&D Branch, Georgia DOT
- CTC & Associates

Background—NCHRP Panelist Survey

- NCHRP conducts a periodic survey of NCHRP project panelists to learn about outcomes.

  - Volunteer panels are composed of state DOTs (>50%), industry, consultants, associations, universities, federal and local agencies.

Background—NCHRP Panelist Survey

- ❑ NCHRP most recently conducted the survey in 2012 for June 2005-June 2009 projects.

  - ▪ 2012 was the fourth such survey, and the first to include PIs.

  - ▪ Covered panels for the full range of NCHRP topics and products—40 to 50 per year.

Feedback Collected From Panelists

- Project outcomes, such as whether:
  - Research results were applied
  - Research confirmed/advanced current practice
  - Research was unsuccessful
  - Other
- Aspects of project management (contractor performance, NCHRP staff support)
- For applied results, details on where/how and associated benefits
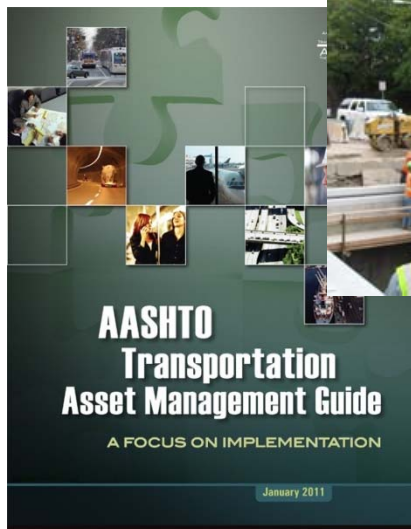
Survey Results

- **806 responses on 178 projects**
  - 726 responses by 530 panel members
  - 80 responses by 56 principal investigators
- **Generally positive outcomes** ▶
- **Extensive free response feedback**

Project Outcomes Across All Responses

22%
Other

45%
Research results have been applied

7%
The research was unsuccessful

28%
The research confirmed current practice

Key Takeaway

❑ **NCHRP products are being used extensively**

- Support AASHTO standard development

- Incorporated into state practice and policy

- Basis for training materials, pilot courses

- Foundation for state-specific follow-up research

NCHRP Saw an Opportunity

Using survey respondents as a primary resource, identify possible improvements to the delivery of NCHRP products that facilitate application

Moreover, NCHRP's 50th anniversary is a uniquely appropriate time to focus on implementation.

NCHRP 20-44(P)—Project Goals

- Analyze factors that promote—or prevent—implementation of NCHRP products
- Identify practices that have been or promise to be successful, effective, and efficient
- Develop criteria and measures to guide future implementation
  - Suggest ways to make process improvements by NCHRP and others to fulfill these measures
  - Make recommendations to overcome obstacles

Information Sources

1. Telephone interviews with project panelists

   - Initial list of 125 target subjects includes 95 agency panelists and 30 PIs. We expect to interview fewer than that.

   - Selection criteria
     - Initial survey input (successful as well as unsuccessful outcomes)
     - Presumed knowledge of implementation and issues
     - Project area diversity
     - Geographic diversity

Panelist/PI Interview Topic Areas

- The project goals, outcomes and implementable products
- The steps taken to implement the results of the research project(s) and the organizational structures that supported these steps
- The key people involved in supporting the implementation efforts

- The biggest challenges or obstacles to implementing the results of the project
- The keys to implementation success and opportunities for NCHRP to provide additional support
- Recommended additional contacts regarding the implementation of this project or another NCHRP project

Information Sources

2. National efforts that facilitate implementation of NCHRP products

Review to include
- TRB webinars, staff follow-up
- AASHTO committee work
- FHWA
  - Every Day Counts
  - Highways for Life
  - Resource Centers
- Others

Information Sources

3. State implementation of NCHRP products—outstanding examples and innovative approaches

- Conduct online survey and follow-up telephone discussion with AASHTO RAC members
- Learn about:
    - Specific NCHRP implementation efforts
    - DOT programs/policies to promote or track NCHRP implementation
    - Similar activities by municipalities, MPOs, LTAPs, others

We Need Your Input!

Look for the survey soon and please take a few minutes to share your thoughts.

Deliverables—Focus on *Usable Guidance*

❑ **In addition to interim and final reports, key findings will be presented in a brief guide and case studies.**

- Modeled after the NCHRP "Impacts on Practice" series
- Highlight successful procedures and strategies that contribute to adoption of NCHRP products

Progress So Far…

- Project is on a fast track.
  - Contract began in June
  - Panelist/PI interviews and contacts with national groups will commence in July
  - RAC survey is ready to go
  - We expect interviews to be completed in the fall
  - An interim update presentation is scheduled for the December 2013 AASHTO SCOR meeting, with final report, guide and case studies in mid-2014

Thank You!

- Questions?

Pat Casey
pat.casey@ctcandassociates.com
(608) 345-8601