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transportation professionals*

Evaluating Implementation of NCHRP Products:

Views of Panel Members, State DOTs, National Organizations

Project NCHRP 20-44(P)

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AASHTO Research Advisory Committee meeting

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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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

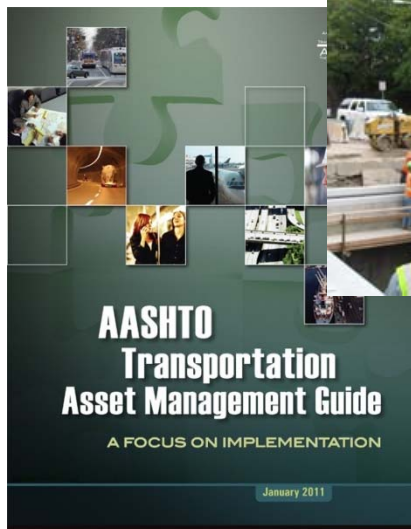
- 806 responses on 178 projects
 - 726 responses by 530 panel members
 - 80 responses by 56 principal investigators
- Generally positive outcomes ►
- Extensive free response feedback

Project Outcomes Across All Responses



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

The screenshot displays the TRB (Transportation Research Board) website. At the top, the TRB logo and 'TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES' are visible. Below the logo, there is a navigation menu with links for 'About TRB', 'Annual Meeting', 'Calendar', 'Committees & Panels', 'Programs', 'Projects', 'Publications', and 'Resources & Databases'. The main content area features a 'TRB Webinar Program' section with a list of upcoming webinars. One prominent webinar is 'TRB Webinar: Fuel Usage Factors', scheduled for April 24, 2013, at 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. The website also features a large 'Every Day Counts' logo with the text 'Innovation, Ingenuity, Invention' and 'Every Day Counts'. Below the logo, there is a 'News' section with a headline: 'Secretary Ray LaHood awarded more than \$16 million to 14 innovative highway and bridge projects in 13 states and the District of Columbia that will improve safety, create jobs and enhance the quality of the nation's transportation infrastructure.' There is also a 'Webinars/Conferences' section with a link to 'EDC Exchange'.

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

The collage features several NCHRP publications:

- NCHRP meets DOT execs' unique needs:** A report discussing the unique needs of DOT executives and how NCHRP research can address them.
- Better, safer bridges for when the earth shakes:** A report focusing on seismic bridge design research to improve bridge safety during earthquakes.
- Impacts on Practice:** A series of reports detailing the practical application and adoption of NCHRP research products in the field.

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?

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