



Attributes of Successful State Research Programs

MODERATOR – JOE CRABTREE, KTC DIRECTOR

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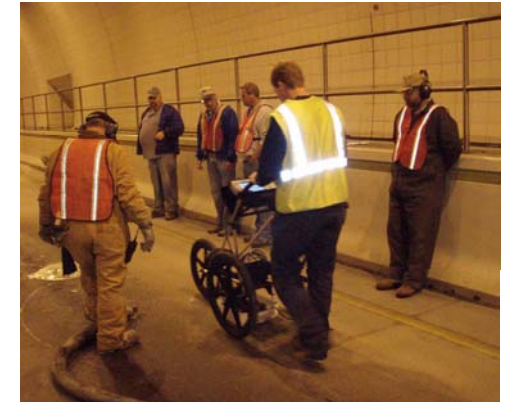


UK UNIVERSITY OF
KENTUCKY
College of Engineering

**Kentucky
Transportation
Center**

A Few Words About KTC

- We can trace our history back to 1941.
- For 40 years, we were the Division of Research of the Kentucky DOT.
- In 1980, the research functions were transferred to the University of Kentucky.
- KTC is a department within the UK College of Engineering.



KTC (continued)

- We serve as the research arm of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
- Our Center includes a strong Technology Transfer Program. We are the designated LTAP for Kentucky.
- We employ 100 people and have an annual budget of about \$11 million.



Attributes of Successful State Research Programs

- Idea for this session came from discussions of the Summer Meeting Planning Committee
- Wanted to identify and focus on the common attributes of successful programs
- Developed and distributed a survey: two questions. Received 14 responses.



Survey Questions:

- If you were asked to measure the success of a state's transportation research program, what are the one or two parameters that you would choose to measure? Why would you choose these measures?
- What are the one or two key attributes that a state's transportation research program should have in order to maximize the probability of success?
- (We also asked the respondents to list one or two states that they felt had highly successful programs.)



Survey Results: Measures of Success

- The value/impact of research. The extent of implementation. Evidence of significant contribution. Benefit/Cost ratio. Return on investment. (12)
- Customer Satisfaction; perceived value by customers (6)
- Customer Engagement (2)
- Support provided to the state's universities (2)



Survey Results: Key Attributes

- Awareness, active involvement, and support from upper management (10)
- Ownership and agency-wide involvement/participation by DOT customers (7)
- Consider implementation from the earliest stages of a project (2)
- Have mechanisms in place to track the implementation of research and to measure and document the value of research (2)



Survey Results: Key Attributes

- A pervasive culture of research, innovation, and implementation (2)
- Researchers who are smart, technically strong, conscientious, understand the DOT's needs, and represent a range of disciplines (2)
- Flexibility and responsiveness to the needs of the agency, public, and industry. Industry support (2)



Panelists:

- Jimmy White – Virginia DOT
- Peggi Knight – Iowa DOT
- Linda Taylor – Minnesota DOT



Thank You!



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