



Act Three

FINDING RESEARCH
FUNDING
Competitive Programs

Research Funding: Competitive Programs



What is it?

- ❖ Describes funding programs that
 - Accept research problem statements and/or
 - Accept research proposals

Where is it?

- ❖ <http://www.trb.org/ResearchFunding/ResearchFunding.aspx>
- OR
- ❖ tinyurl.com/transportationresearchfunding



Funding Sources for Transportation Research: Competitive Programs

www.TRB.org/ResearchFunding

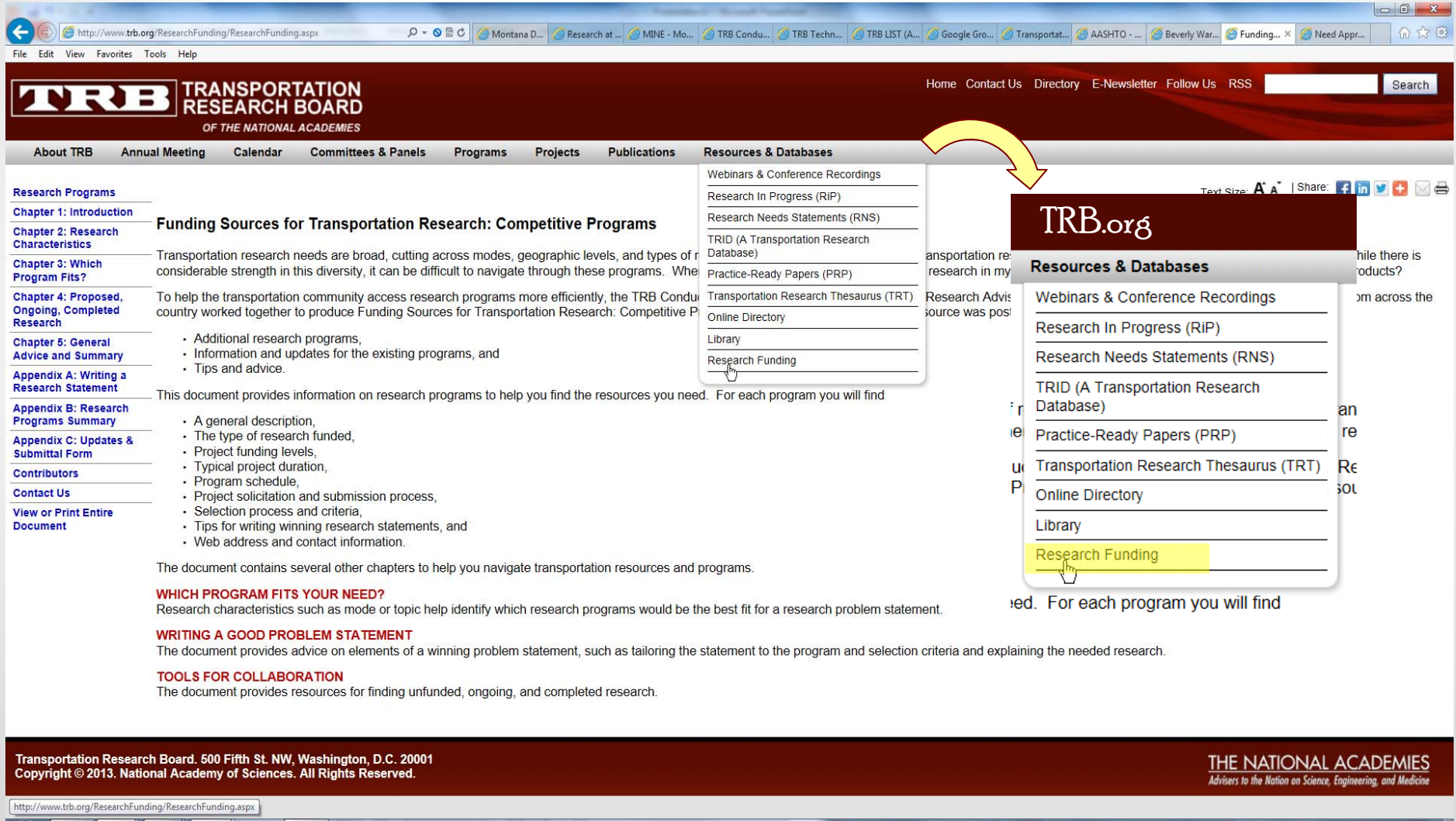


*Do you have a research topic in
search of funding?*

*There's a new tool to help you find
a program to fund that research!*

TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Where is it?



The screenshot shows the TRB.org website with the following elements:

- Browser Address Bar:** <http://www.trb.org/ResearchFunding/ResearchFunding.aspx>
- Page Header:** TRB TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES. Navigation links: Home, Contact Us, Directory, E-Newsletter, Follow Us, RSS, Search.
- Main Navigation:** About TRB, Annual Meeting, Calendar, Committees & Panels, Programs, Projects, Publications, Resources & Databases.
- Left Sidebar:** Research Programs, Chapter 1: Introduction, Chapter 2: Research Characteristics, Chapter 3: Which Program Fits?, Chapter 4: Proposed, Ongoing, Completed Research, Chapter 5: General Advice and Summary, Appendix A: Writing a Research Statement, Appendix B: Research Programs Summary, Appendix C: Updates & Submittal Form, Contributors, Contact Us, View or Print Entire Document.
- Main Content:** **Funding Sources for Transportation Research: Competitive Programs**. Text: "Transportation research needs are broad, cutting across modes, geographic levels, and types of research... considerable strength in this diversity, it can be difficult to navigate through these programs. When... To help the transportation community access research programs more efficiently, the TRB Conducted... country worked together to produce Funding Sources for Transportation Research: Competitive Programs." Lists: "Additional research programs, Information and updates for the existing programs, and Tips and advice." "A general description, The type of research funded, Project funding levels, Typical project duration, Program schedule, Project solicitation and submission process, Selection process and criteria, Tips for writing winning research statements, and Web address and contact information." Sub-sections: "WHICH PROGRAM FITS YOUR NEED?", "WRITING A GOOD PROBLEM STATEMENT", "TOOLS FOR COLLABORATION".
- Right Sidebar:** TRB.org logo, Resources & Databases menu (Webinars & Conference Recordings, Research In Progress (RIP), Research Needs Statements (RNS), TRID (A Transportation Research Database), Practice-Ready Papers (PRP), Transportation Research Thesaurus (TRT), Online Directory, Library, Research Funding), Text Size: A A+, Share: f in t + e.
- Annotations:** A yellow arrow points from the 'Resources & Databases' menu to the 'Research Funding' link. A yellow highlight is under 'Research Funding' in the menu.

Why Use It?

Because, in order to secure funding, you need to know:

- ❖ Who can submit research needs
- ❖ If there are focus areas and, if so, what
- ❖ If champions/sponsors are required and, if so, who
- ❖ Who prioritizes the research needs (generally)
- ❖ Who makes the funding decisions (generally)
- ❖ The process

What's in it?



**TRANSPORTATION
RESEARCH BOARD**

OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

[About TRB](#)

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[Calendar](#)

[Committees & Panels](#)

[Programs](#)

[Projects](#)

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Research Programs

- Transportation Research Board
- Federal Research Programs
- State Department of Transportation
- University Transportation Centers
- International Research Programs

[Chapter 1: Introduction](#)

[Chapter 2: Research Characteristics](#)

[Chapter 3: Which Program Fits?](#)

[Chapter 4: Proposed, Ongoing, Completed Research](#)

[Chapter 5: General Advice and Summary](#)

[Appendix A: Writing a Research Statement](#)

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[Funding Sources for Transportation Research: Competitive Programs](#) > Research Programs

Research Programs

For information on the programs below please click on the headers (i.e. Transportation Research Board)

Transportation Research Board

- National Cooperative Highway Research Program
- Airport Cooperative Research Program
- Transit Cooperative Research Program
- National Freight Cooperative Research Program
- Hazardous Material Cooperative Research Program
- IDEA

State

- State Planning and Research (SP&R) Funding
- Transportation Pooled Fund Program

University Transportation Centers

Federal

- Federal Highway Administration
- Research and Innovation Technology Administration
- Federal Transit Administration
- Federal Aviation Administration (Pending)
- National Science Foundation (Pending)
- National Institute of Health (Pending)
- Department of Energy (Pending)
- Department of Homeland Security (Pending)
- Department of Education (Pending)
- Environmental Protection Agency (Pending)
- Department of Agriculture (Pending)

International Research Programs

- European Union (FP7)
- European Union (FP7)

Private Corporations or Foundations

Pending

What else is in it?



Research Programs

- Transportation Research Board
- Federal Research Programs
- State Department of Transportation
- University Transportation Centers
- International Research Programs

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Research Characteristics

Chapter 3: Which Program Fits?

Chapter 4: Proposed, Ongoing, Completed Research

Chapter 5: General Advice and Summary

Appendix A: Writing a Research Statement

Appendix B: Research Programs Summary

Appendix C: Updates & Submittal Form

Contributors

Contact Us

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Funding Sources for Transportation Research: Competitive Programs > Research Programs > Transportation Research Board

Text Size: A A | Share:

Transportation Research Board

- [National Cooperative Highway Research Program](#)
- [Innovations Deserving Exploratory Analysis](#)
- [Airport Cooperative Research Program](#)
- [Transit Cooperative Research Program](#)
- [National Cooperative Freight Research Program](#)
- [Hazardous Materials Cooperative Research Program](#)
- [TRB Legal Resources Program](#)

What is the Transportation Research Board?

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) is a division of the National Academies, a private, nonprofit institution that includes the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council. Created as the Highway Research Board in 1920, TRB promotes innovation and progress in transportation through research. Much more information about [TRB](#).

TRB Research Overview

TRB administers a number of major research programs sponsored by other organizations. The oldest and largest of these programs, the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP), is sponsored by the state transportation departments in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP), initiated in 1992, is sponsored by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Both are applied research programs in which the potential users of research results have a direct role in project selection. In 2002, TRB began administering the Commercial Truck and Bus Safety Synthesis Program (CTBSSP), which is sponsored by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. The congressionally requested Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP), which began work in 2006, is sponsored by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Two other new programs were initiated in 2006—the Hazardous Materials Cooperative Research Program (HMCRP) and the National Cooperative Freight Research Program (NCFRP), both of which were authorized in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

For all of these programs, TRB organizes panels of experts to provide guidance on technical aspects of the research and to translate the problems into project statements with well-defined objectives. Research proposals are then solicited from private and public research organizations with capability and experience in the problem areas to be studied. The technical panels review the proposals, recommend contract awards, monitor research in progress, provide technical guidance, and determine the acceptability of the final reports. More than 3,000 experienced practitioners and research specialists currently serve on Cooperative Research Program panels. TRB also manages programs of smaller studies focused on synthesizing current practices and analyzing legal issues in the NCHRP, ACRP, and the TCRP programs.

National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP)

NCHRP Regular Projects

Total Annual Funding – \$36.5 million (total annual program funds)
Range of Project Costs – \$200,000–600,000: Statements Due – mid-September

General Description

Administered by the Transportation Research Board (TRB), the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) was created in 1962 as a means to conduct research in acute problem areas that affect highway planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance nationwide. NCHRP is sponsored by the state departments of transportation in cooperation with FHWA. Support is voluntary and funds are provided from the states' Federal-Aid Highway apportionment of State Planning and Research (SP&R) funds (information on the SP&R funds may be found in the state DOT section of this report.) Each state's voluntary contribution amounts to 5.5 percent of its SP&R apportionment, resulting in an annual cooperative pool of \$36.5 million to fund the program's activities (based on 2008 funding levels).

AASHTO committees, state DOTs, and FHWA propose research topics each year, and the AASHTO Standing Committee on Research (SCOR) recommends both the projects to be funded and the levels of funding for those projects.

What information does it provide?



- ❖ Summary
- ❖ General description
- ❖ Type of research funded
- ❖ Funding range
- ❖ Timeframe
- ❖ Project solicitation and submission
- ❖ Selection process
- ❖ Contact information

Program by Research Need Characteristics

❖ Chapter 1 – Introduction

❖ Chapter 2

- Geographic relevance
- Mode/Topic
- Funding level
- Partnering/cost-sharing requirements

❖ Chapter 3

- Mode/Topic
- Funding Range
- Type of projects

Research needs

How to find research needs and projects



❖ Chapter 4

- Research needs
- Ongoing research
- Completed research

Why is it important to know about research needs?

- ❖ Improve coordination and collaboration
- ❖ Reduce duplication of efforts
- ❖ Increase funding chances
 - Wider applicability
 - Helps researchers to identify projects

How can you identify research needs?



- ❖ Transportation Research Needs Meta Search Tool
 - tinyurl.com/transportationresearchneeds
 - TRB Research Needs Statements (RNS) Database (rns.trb.org)
 - AASHTO Transportation & Environment Research Ideas (TERI) Database
(http://environment.transportation.org/teri_database/)
 - Unfunded pooled-fund projects
(<http://www.pooledfund.org/>)
 - NCHRP unfunded problem statements (2010-2013)
 - MnDOT unfunded research needs

Why is it important to know about ongoing and completed research?

- ❖ Monitor research in progress
- ❖ Review/synthesize/implement/share research results
- ❖ facilitate coordination and collaboration
- ❖ Identify potential partners
- ❖ Reduce duplication of efforts
- ❖ Identify related work upon which to build
- ❖ Identify experts and peer reviewers
- ❖ Improve funding opportunities

How can you learn about ongoing and completed research?

- ❖ TRB Research in Progress (RiP) Database (rip.trb.org)
- ❖ TRB Transportation Research International Documentation (TRID) Database (trid.trb.org)
- ❖ USDOT Research Hub
(<http://ntlsearch.bts.gov/researchhub/index.do>)
- ❖ National Transportation Library (NTL) Integrated Search (<http://ntl.bts.gov>)

How can you learn about ongoing and completed research?

- ❖ **Transport Research & Innovation (TRIP) Portal**
(<http://www.transport-research.info/>)
- ❖ **HERMES** (<http://www.hermes-project.net/>)
- ❖ **Transportation Libraries and Information Centers**
(<https://www.transportationresearch.gov/ntl/ntkn/librarydirectory2/forms/default.aspx>)
- ❖ **National Technical Information Service (NTIS)**
(<http://www.ntis.gov>)
- ❖ **WorldCat** (<http://www.worldcat.org/>)

How to write an effective research statement



Appendix A: How to Write an Effective Research Statement

[Webinar:](#)

["Presentation"](#) and ["Presentation Talking Points"](#)

Writing an effective research statement is not a simple matter, even to transportation practitioners who face serious problems and challenges on a daily basis. The research needed might be obvious to them but difficult to describe non-specialists. They may not have thought about how to quantify it or how to justify the needed research with respect to other agency or national priorities. A serious problem to them might not even be on a decision maker's radar screen.

This document was written to provide some guidance on developing research statements for funding consideration. The categories below are based on those of the National Cooperative Highway Research Program, but they should be adaptable to any research funding program.

TITLE

The research statement title should briefly and immediately convey to the reader what the proposed study is about. It does not have to capture every element, nuance, and expected task of the research problem. It is like the title of a book—it should attract your attention, quickly convey the subject, draw you in, and make you want to read what's inside.

Here's a general rule: the more deeply you are involved in a particular subject, the harder it is for you to step back and see the big picture. You may be tempted to title your research statement something like this . . .

Collection, analysis, and compilation of current best practices for the design of roundabouts for U.S. roadways and how those design elements will impact safety, capacity, and contribute to effective traffic management objectives . . .

rather than this . . .

Design guide for roundabouts.

The first alternative might be a good title for a PhD thesis; the second title is a far better choice for a research statement.

Maintaining this resource



Appendix C: Transportation Research Program Additions and Changes and Link to New Program Submittal Form

[Submittal Form](#) for changes, corrections, updates, or additional information on programs already included on the web page.

To suggest a new program we will need the following information:

1. Program Title and Agency
2. General Description
3. Type of Research Funded
4. Funding Levels and Project Time Frame
5. Schedule
6. Project Solicitation and Submission
7. Selection Process
8. Project Selection Criteria and Tips for Writing Winning Research Statements
9. Further Information (Web address and contact information)

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