

OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH IN TRANSPORTATION & THE ENVIRONMENT

(Special Notes: "Accessibility to SCOE" rating of 1 to 4 stars indicates ease with which SCOE can use program to support its research needs; project "size" and "timeframe" are generalizations)

Limited basic research funded by these programs

FHWA Exploratory Advanced Research Program:
New, exploratory advanced research program in development. Seeks to transfer breakthrough technologies into the transportation sector.
Accessibility to SCOE: **?
Project timeframe: ?
Web link: fhwa.dot.gov/crt/

University Research Programs: 60 federally designated University Transportation Centers nationwide; work closely with state DOTs & others on diverse array of research projects.
Accessibility to SCOE: ***
Project size: \$50k to \$1 million
Project timeframe: 1-5 yrs
Web link: <http://utcc.dot.gov>

State DOTs' Research Programs: Each DOT has its own research office and program.
Accessibility to SCOE: ****
Project size: Mostly \$50k to \$200k
Project timeframe: 1-3 yrs
Web link: transportation.org/?siteid=55&pageid=873

Pooled Fund Program: FHWA's Transportation Pooled Fund Program allows federal, state, and local agencies and other organizations to combine resources to support transportation research studies. No due date for ideas
Accessibility to SCOE: **
Project size: \$500k to \$1 million
Project timeframe: 1-4 yrs
Web link: www.pooledfund.org

FHWA "STEP" Program: Section 5207 of SAFETEA-LU established the Surface Transportation Environment and Planning Cooperative Research Program (STEP) with annual funding of about \$11.7M. Stakeholders may provide suggestions to FHWA about STEP priorities via the Federal Register.
Accessibility to SCOE: ***
Project size: \$50k to \$450k
Project timeframe: 1-2 yrs
Web link: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/step/>

AASHTO/NCHRP Quick Response Funding: 25-25 (SCOE), 8-36 (SCOP), 20-64 (SCOPT), 20-7 (SCOH), 20-24 (CEOs). Projects are smaller than the typical NCHRP project and typically require quicker turn-around. Funding for a single project usually does not exceed \$100,000, and the duration of these research projects is usually less than 12 months. SCOE, SCOP, SCOE, CEO ideas due September. SCOPT ideas due July.
Accessibility to SCOE: ****
Project size: <\$100k
Project timeframe: <1 yr
Web link: www.trb.org/CRP/About/DivD.asp

University Research

State Research

Federal Research

1. BASIC RESEARCH – FILLING KNOWLEDGE GAPS

Characteristics: Exploratory; results applicable in transportation, but not always oriented to everyday practitioner use; foundation for developing practical tools.

2. APPLIED RESEARCH – USING KNOWLEDGE TO SHAPE TOOLS/POLICY

Characteristics: Helps practitioners translate basic research into innovative solutions to problems; includes guidance documents, best practices summaries, analytic tools, etc.

3. IMMEDIATE RESEARCH – RESPONDING TO CRITICAL ISSUES

Characteristics: Quick turnaround; often serves pressing policy needs, or summarizes results of other research.

AASHTO CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE & TERI DATABASE: CONNECTING RESEARCHERS & PRACTITIONERS

TRB Special Studies: Occasional, Congressionally mandated/other policy studies conducted by TRB on transportation issues of national significance; undergo extensive review process.
Accessibility to SCOE: *
Project size: \$500k+
Project timeline: 2 yrs+
Web link: www.trb.org

NCHRP Domestic & International Scans: NCHRP 20-36 funds international information sharing and technology exchanges through dissemination of successful practices from around the globe.
Accessibility to SCOE: **
Project size: \$150k
Project timeframe: 1 yr
Web link: www.trb.org/TRBNet/ProjectDisplay.asp?ProjectID=579

NCHRP Program: Annual program of research voluntarily funded by State DOTs from State Planning and Research (SPR) funds. Projects selected by Standing Committee on Research. Ideas September 15.
Accessibility to SCOE: ***
Project size: \$200k to \$1 million
Project timeline: 18 mths-3 years
Web link: www.trb.org/CRP/NCHRP/NCHRP.asp

Other TRB Cooperative Programs: Airport Cooperative Research Program, Hazardous Materials Cooperative Research Program, National Freight Cooperative Research Program, Transit Cooperative Research Program, Similar to NCHRP program
Accessibility to SCOE: **
Project size: \$150k to \$500k
Project timeframe: 1-4 yrs
Web link: www.trb.org

SHRP 2 Program: SHRP 2 is a 4-year, \$209M program of strategic highway research. Environmental research is included as part of the "Capacity" element of SHRP 2. A program of projects has already been set.
Accessibility to SCOE: *
Project size: \$1 million
Project timeframe: 1-5 yrs
Web link: www.trb.org/shrp2/

NCHRP Synthesis Topics: Brief reports on current knowledge and practice, without the detailed directions usually found in handbooks or design manuals. About 12 Synthesis reports are produced each year. The deadline for Synthesis topics is February.
Accessibility to SCOE: ****
Project size: <\$50k
Project timeframe <1 yr
Web link: www.trb.org/Studies/Synthesis/Syntheses.asp
Note – Synthesis projects are also in place for airports, transit, and commercial truck and bus safety.

IDEA Program: Funds research into promising but unproven innovations for highways, transportation safety, and transit. Ideas due in March or September.
Accessibility to SCOE: *
Project size: ?
Project timeframe: ?
Web link: <http://www.trb.org/Studies/Programs/IDEA.asp>

TRB Research

NCHRP Legal Research Digest: Preliminary reports to provide early awareness and encourage application of research results emanating from the continuing NCHRP Project, Legal Problems Arising Out of Highway Programs.
Accessibility to SCOE: ***
Project size <\$50k
Project timeframe <1 yr
Web link: www.trb.org