Performance Measures to Support Planning and Environment Linkages

TRB Session Proposal

Many transportation agencies have begun to integrate environmental considerations throughout the transportation decision-making process but have done little to document and measure the results of such efforts. The Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) Program, a joint effort of FHWA’s Office of Planning and Office of Project Development and Environmental Review, has recently undertaken an effort to identify and develop performance measures for use in PEL implementation. PEL performance measures include quantitative and qualitative measures, and focus on process efficiency and resource protection outcomes.

The FHWA PEL Team requests that your committee consider hosting a session at the TRB 89th Annual Meeting on the use of performance measures in linking transportation planning and environmental activities. The proposed session addresses two themes important to today’s transportation community - transparency and accountability, and environmental stewardship. Such a session will be useful for planners, environmental practitioners and managers in the field of transportation.

The focus of the session will be a discussion on how to develop and apply performance measures to assess progress towards integrating environmental considerations throughout the transportation decision-making process. Additional discussion items include:

- Key challenges in developing performance measures for PEL
- Role of performance measures in communicating goals, objectives, and outcomes with decision makers

Panel participants would include:

- Representatives from State DOTs
- Representatives from MPOs
- FHWA moderator

For more information on the PEL Program, contact Mike Culp at 202-366-9229 or Michael.Culp@dot.gov or Sharlene Reed at 202-366-9629 or Sharlene.Reed@dot.gov.