Goal #1: Identify and prioritize transportation-related environmental research

Objectives:

1. Solicit ideas for future research needs from members and friends of the Committee and other sources.

2. Identify the priorities in transportation-related environmental analysis research annually based on sources of research ideas including but not limited to: 1) input from Committee members, Research Topics Subcommittee members, and friends of the Committee; 2) the top priorities resulting from the AASHTO Standing Committee on the Environment’s (SCOE’s) annual review of research ideas in the Transportation and Environmental Research Ideas (TERI) database; 3) the results of FHWA’s Surface Transportation Environment and Planning Cooperative Research Program (STEP) call for ideas; 4) the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) annual research project solicitations; 5) other recent research program initiatives; and 6) the results from Environmental Research Needs Conferences that are conducted.

3. Work with other groups (e.g. other TRB committees, FHWA, SCOE, etc.) to utilize our joint resources to identify, prioritize, advocate for, and advance, research needs.

4. Submit prioritized research topics, ideas, and needs statements to the Committee Chair for full committee vetting and subsequent distribution, as appropriate, to AASHTO’s TERI database, the TRB Research Needs Database, FHWA’s STEP, NCHRP, SCOE, other TRB committees.

5. Assist the National Research Council in developing a prioritized listing of environmental research need statements.

Goal #2: Disseminate research results that encourage innovation and adoption of best practices in environmental analysis and transportation project development

Objectives:

1. Support and track what happens to research ideas generated in the environmental transportation profession through monitoring of the TRB Research Needs Database, TERI, RiP, TRISOnline, STEP, and other associated research data sources.

2. Maximize the utilization of previous research by generating workshops, paper sessions and poster sessions based on identified needs and research that has been completed.

3. Identify important research papers, abstracts or summaries and submit them to the Website and Newsletter Subcommittees for their consideration.
Goal #3: Encourage discussion between researchers and practitioners about research needs and results.

Objectives:

1. Identify emerging research topics for inclusion in Committee’s calls for papers or calls for presentations through coordination with the Strategic Issues Subcommittee, AASHTO, TRB, FHWA, State DOTs, and institutions of higher learning partners.

2. Track funded research to ensure awareness about research results is maximized and arrangements are made to present the results of relevant research at TRB during a presentation/poster/or paper session.

3. Coordinate with the Mid-Year Workshop Subcommittee to identify research topics and themes worthy of consideration for future Mid-year meetings.

4. Submit high-quality research papers, abstracts, or summaries to the Website Subcommittee Chairperson and to the Newsletter Subcommittee Chairperson for potential Web-Site posting and/or use as newsletter articles.

5. Participate in the planning, promotion and implementation of future research needs conferences.

6. Promote the exchange of ideas and identification of related research topics following each Environmental Research Needs Conference through the Committee’s Web site, newsletters and liaison program.

Operating Procedures:

1. When the subcommittee is charged with generating new research ideas or needs statements, the Subcommittee Chair will solicit input from the full Committee before submitting a finalized prioritized list of research needs to the Committee Chair.

2. Partner with other agencies (e.g. FHWA, AASHTO, etc.) and TRB committees on environmental research needs that can be jointly developed with TRB.

3. Identify and coordinate with researchers who have published or are interested in publishing their research findings on priority research topics.

4. Track and report on the status of Committee-sponsored or prioritized research that results from Environmental Research Needs Conferences and associated partnering efforts.

5. Coordinate with the Publications Subcommittee to solicit papers on identified related research topics.

6. Coordinate with the Strategic Issues Subcommittee to solicit ideas for research topics.

7. Coordinate with the Liaison Subcommittee to inform other committees of identified research priorities to determine interest in participation.
8. Coordinate with the Mid-Year Workshop Subcommittee and the Committee Chair to recommend potential Annual meeting paper sessions and themes for upcoming Mid-year workshops.

9. Coordinate with Liaison and Mid-Year Workshop Subcommittees for the identification of presenters and papers.

10. Submit a written report of the Subcommittee’s accomplishments and activities to the Committee Chair at each Annual Meeting and Mid-Year Workshop.

11. The Research Topics Subcommittee Chairperson is appointed by the Committee Chair and serves as the principal coordinator for the Committee’s research activities.

12. The Subcommittee recognizes that the partnerships between TRB, AASHTO, FHWA, the State DOTs, institutions of higher learning, and other public and private sector organizations are essential to effectively identify, track, fund, monitor, and report on important research within the environmental transportation field. A priority of the subcommittee is to build relationships and maintain membership that includes representation from these organizations as part of a proactive effort to understand and identify research needs, priorities, and results.

13. Members of the Research Topics Subcommittee are selected by the Subcommittee Chairperson to assist with all subcommittee activities.

Adopted by the Committee
July 13, 2009
Shepherdstown, West Virginia