

Research Needs in the Areas of Internal Alignment and External Communications Subcommittee Activities for A1T50

Overview

In preparation for the summer meeting of TRB Task Force A1T50 on Transportation Asset Management, our subcommittee began the development of synthesis topics and research problem statements in the areas of Internal Alignment and External Communications. To start us off, the subcommittee reviewed the report that Ernie spearheaded to help identify needs in our subject area. Using this report, several topics were identified as potential issues to be addressed in the form of synthesis topics and/or research problem statements. The subcommittee was asked to vote on the list of topics to help establish priorities among the various options. The total number of votes for each of the options is shown in parenthesis.

Synthesis Topics

1. Communicating the value of preservation efforts to the public, legislative body, special interest groups, engineering community, and others outside the transportation industry. (4)
2. Case studies from agencies that have successfully addressed institutional issues to support asset management and the benefits that have been realized (include both private- and public-sector agencies). (2)

Research Problem Statements

1. Methods to integrate asset management into a transportation agency's decision process and/or matching stakeholder interests with asset management goals and objectives. (2)
2. Aligning valuation approaches for transportation assets with asset management objectives and stakeholder interests. (1)
3. Addressing Institutional issues that impede the success of asset management programs in transportation agencies. (3)
4. Measuring the benefits of asset management. (0)

As a reminder, a synthesis can be described as a summary of current practice in a specific subject area. Typically included in the document is a look at gaps in the subject area and recommendations are made for future research that is needed. Research problem statements are considered by AASHTO for inclusion in NCHRP's research program. To be accepted, a research need must have strong support from state highway agencies. Of course, there are other funding sources available for research, but the NCHRP program should probably be our focus as a TRB Task Force.