**NCHRP SYNTHESIS TOPIC STATEMENT OUTLINE**

***NCHRP Synthesis Topic Statements Are Due February 17, 2023***

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| The following factors are considered in the selection process for synthesis topics:   * The objective of the scope of work is to document current highway practice in state departments of transportation (DOTs); * The synthesis documents current practice, not *best* practice; it is not a research project or a guidebook; * The topic addresses an area of practice that is widespread and of general interest to state DOTs; * The topic should be timely and critical for expediting delivery, improving the quality, or lowering the cost of highway programs; and * The scope of work aligns with a $55,000 budget and an 11-month turnaround. |

**Please use the outline below for creating your synthesis topic statement. You do not need to copy the outline headings in your topic statement.**

**Upload your topic statement in a Word document to** [**https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6966987/NCHRP-Synthesis-Topic-Submission**](https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6966987/NCHRP-Synthesis-Topic-Submission)**.**

1. **Topic Title**

* Communicate what the synthesis is about in as few words as possible (i.e., the state DOT practice the synthesis will document).

1. **Background**

* One or two paragraphs providing description of the topic to be studied. This section gives context for the proposed topic.
* A synthesis is appropriate when most state DOTs engage in the practice but they do it differently (i.e., there are no standard guidelines or regulations).

1. **Synthesis Objective**

* One paragraph
* Statement of specific state DOT practices the synthesis will document (e.g., The synthesis will document state DOT practices on…)

1. **Information To Be Gathered**

* A bulleted list is recommended
* Examples of important aspects of the practices to be documented.
* The information to be gathered should be factual and not require the opinion of a survey recipient.
* A synthesis is suitable for documenting the *what’s* and *how’s* of practice, not the *why’s*.

1. **How the Information Will Gathered**

Note: The approach for gathering information is standard for all syntheses. The suggested language for the synthesis statement is as follows:

Information will be gathered through a literature review, a survey of state DOTs, and follow-up interviews with selected DOTs for the development of case examples. Information gaps and suggestions for research to address those gaps will be identified.

1. **Information Sources (Partial)**

* A comprehensive literature search is not required for a synthesis statement. Include any literature references that you want to make sure will be seen by the panel and the principal investigator should the topic be selected.
* Literature searches can be conducted on TRID (<http://trid.trb.org>), which includes the Research in Progress database (<http://rip.trb.org/>)

***Please submit the synthesis topic statement by February 17, 2023:*** [***https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6966987/NCHRP-Synthesis-Topic-Submission***](https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6966987/NCHRP-Synthesis-Topic-Submission)

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