HOW CAN I BECOME INVOLVED IN ACRP?

There are four ways to become involved in ACRP:

1. Submit a research idea, or "problem statement."

Provide a general description of the problem, including a clear, concise statement of the objectives expected to be met and any anticipated products of the research. Briefly describe the research proposed and how it relates to the problem. Include an estimate of the funds and time needed to complete the research. A problem statement outline can be found on the ACRP website at www.trb.org/ACRP.

The AOC meets in July to review problem statements and select projects for the next fiscal year's program. Problem statements received by spring are considered for the next fiscal year's program, while those received after spring are considered for the fiscal year after that.

2. Volunteer to participate on a project panel.

Each project is assigned to a panel, which provides technical guidance and counsel throughout the life of the project. TRB normally solicits nominations in August and September for people to serve on project panels for the next fiscal year's projects. In response to the TRB's solicitation for nominations, any interested person may self-nominate or be nominated for membership on a project panel. Submit a synopsis of the individual's interest, background, and experience in the topic area; a resume; and an ACRP nomination form, which can be downloaded from the ACRP website at www.trb.org/ACRP.

3. Prepare a proposal to conduct research.

In response to ACRP RFPs, any interested individual, agency, or others who possess extensive, demonstrated capability and proven experience in the problem area may submit a proposal to do the research work. Information on how to prepare and submit a proposal is provided on the ACRP website at www.trb.org/ACRP.

4. Use the research results.

ACRP products are developed in response to problems faced by airport operators. When faced with an airport issue, use ACRP products as references.

Photo used with permission from Range Regional Airport, Hibbing, Minnesota.

SCOPE OF ACRP PROJECTS

ACRP can address any issue faced by airport operators. Some projects may apply to only specific types of airports, such as general aviation or air carrier airports, while others apply to virtually all airports. Projects may target areas as diverse as safety, security, operations, environment, planning, design, construction, maintenance, administration, policy, and human resources.

ACRP products are a series of research reports that airport operators, the FAA, consultants, and other interested parties can consult in addressing airport issues.

Airport Cooperative Research Program
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THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES
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National Academy of Sciences
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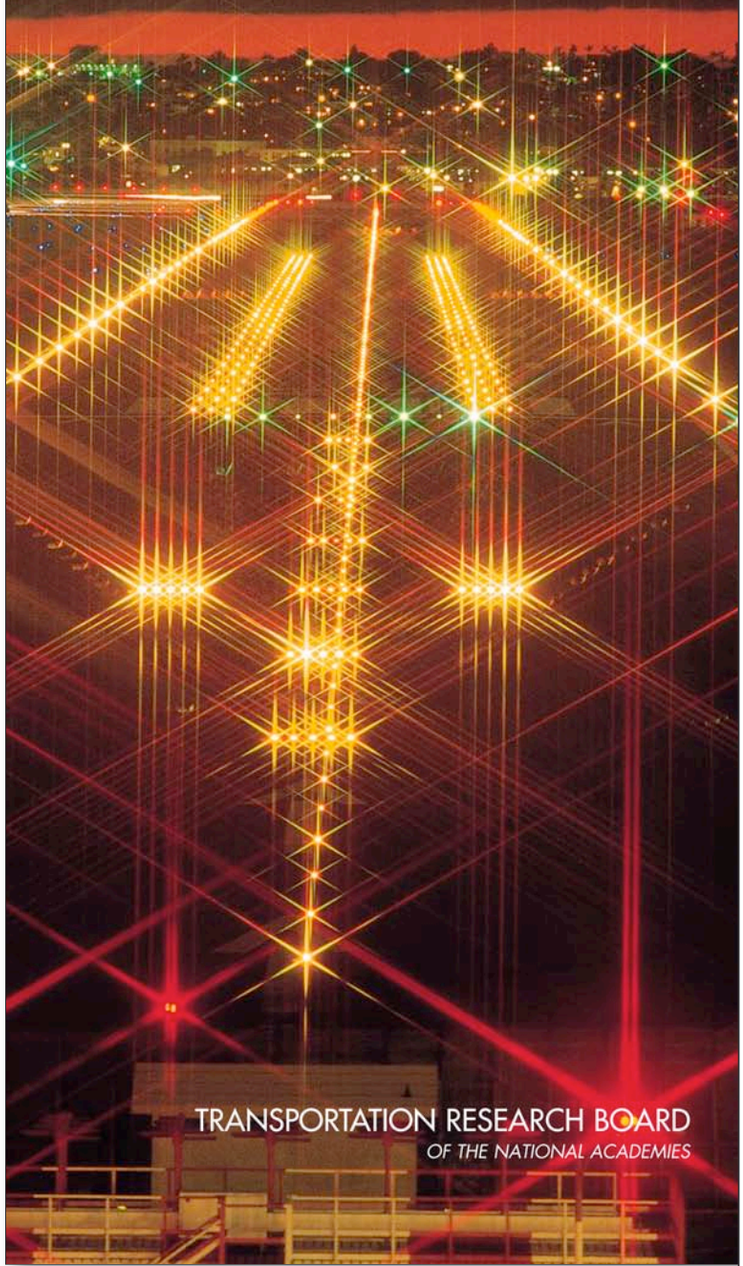
ACRP

Airport Cooperative Research Program



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

AIRPORT COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM

WHAT IS ACRP?

The Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) is an industry-driven, applied research program that develops near-term, practical solutions to problems faced by airport operators. ACRP is managed by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academies and sponsored by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The research is conducted by contractors who are selected on the basis of competitive proposals.

HOW IS ACRP FUNDED?

ACRP is authorized by Congress and funded as part of the annual FAA appropriations process.

HOW IS ACRP GOVERNED?

The U.S. Secretary of Transportation appoints individuals to an independent governing board called the ACRP Oversight Committee (AOC). The AOC has an FAA representative along with individuals from airports and elsewhere in the airport industry. Ex Officio members on the AOC include representatives of industry associations such as the Airports Council International–North America (ACI-NA), the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE), the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), the Air Transport Association (ATA), and the Airport Consultants Council (ACC).

WHERE DO THE RESEARCH IDEAS ORIGINATE?

Anyone may submit a research idea, or "problem statement," for airport research at any time to TRB.

WHO SELECTS THE RESEARCH TOPICS?

The AOC reviews the problem statements and selects the ones that will be funded. Emphasis is placed on selecting topics that are important to airport operators and that will result in "applied research" products, which airport operators will be able to use immediately upon the completion of the research.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER RESEARCH TOPICS ARE SELECTED?

TRB follows a cooperative research process that it has used successfully for more than 45 years in other programs. First, TRB forms a project panel of individuals with expertise and interest in the topic area. This project panel uses the original problem statement to develop a detailed scope of work that serves as a basis for a request for proposals (RFP). The RFP is prepared and distributed to the airport community, as well as posted on the ACRP website. Individuals and agencies then respond to the RFP by submitting proposals to perform the work. The project panel reviews the proposals and selects the contractor to perform the work. The panel then provides technical guidance, reviews deliverables, and provides general oversight throughout the life of the project.

HOW LARGE ARE PROJECT PANELS, AND WHO SERVES ON THEM?

A project panel consists of approximately six people, typically from the airport industry, consultant community, and academia. TRB selects project panel members because of their expertise and interest in the research topic and attempts to balance relevant technical disciplines associated with the topic. Panel members serve as individuals, not as representatives of their affiliations. Project panels also include liaison representatives from FAA, TRB, and often industry organizations.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT OF ACRP PROJECT PANEL MEMBERS?

The time commitment expected from project panel members is modest. An initial 2-day meeting focuses on developing an RFP. A follow-up 1-day meeting allows members to share their proposal evaluations and select the contractor for the project. An interim 1-day meeting brings the project panel together with the research contractor approximately 6 months after the project has begun. The remaining work, done from the panel member's place of work or via teleconference, includes reviews of draft documents and other deliverables.

ARE PROJECT PANEL MEMBERS COMPENSATED?

Project panel members serve as volunteers without compensation. However, ACRP pays for travel costs that panel members incur to attend the meetings, including airfare, lodging, meals, and incidentals.

HOW CAN I OBTAIN ACRP PRODUCTS?

Emphasis is placed on publishing results with relevant, useful value to airport operating agencies. ACRP Reports, the primary series of research publications, are for use by airport operators, local agencies, consultants, industry associations, FAA, and other interested parties.

Anyone can sign up to receive notification of new publications as they become available. All ACRP products are available on the ACRP website at www.trb.org/ACRP.

SPECIAL ACRP PROJECTS

Synthesis of Information on Airport Problems

This series of publications reports on current knowledge and practice, in a compact format, without the detailed directions usually found in handbooks or design manuals. Each report in the series provides a compendium of the best knowledge available on those measures found to be successful in resolving specific problems.

Legal Aspects of Airport Programs

This series reports on legal topics of interest to the airport legal community. Each document provides airport attorneys with authoritative, well-researched, specific information on legal issues and problems having national significance to the airport industry.

Graduate Research Award Program

This project is designed to help foster the next generation of aviation leaders by stimulating thought, discussion, and research by those who may become the future airport managers, operators, designers, and policy makers in aviation.

ACRP Dissemination Program

ACRP facilitates the dissemination of published results in various ways. The industry may arrange for workshops, seminars, presentations, training aids, webinars, and other activities to ensure that results are successfully implemented by airport-industry practitioners.