

National Cooperative Highway Research Program
Long-Range Strategic Issues Facing the Transportation Industry
(NCHRP Project 20-83)

Have you thought about the future?

A Request for Problem Statements

<http://www.trb.org/notesdocs/nchrp20-83-solicitation.pdf>

The National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) is conducting an open solicitation for candidate research problem statements to examine long-range strategic issues – both global and domestic – that will likely affect transportation agencies some 30 to 50 years in the future. The transportation industry will face new and emerging challenges that will dramatically reshape transportation priorities and needs. As the sponsor of NCHRP, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) recognizes that research can help ensure that transportation practitioners are equipped to deal with future challenges facing the industry. Therefore, AASHTO created Project 20-83, “Long-Range Strategic Issues Facing the Transportation Industry,” to be administered by TRB under the NCHRP.

Although some of the challenges facing the transportation industry are emerging today, the goal of Project 20-83 research is to look beyond immediate implications and focus on long-range consequences. These challenges may derive from the impacts of major global trends, such as climate change, changes in the cost of fuels, and new technology, and from domestic trends, such as changing demographics and lifestyle expectations, changes in land-use patterns, and limitations in current transportation finance methods. Research conducted for this project should consider the following two goals: (1) anticipate future issues so that transportation agencies are better prepared to respond to new and emerging challenges and (2) explore visions of what the future should look like, so that transportation agencies can help shape the future through their decision-making.

The AASHTO Standing Committee on Research (SCOR) conducted a scan of domestic and global mega trends that may have implications for transportation agencies and subsequently selected seven projects on which to conduct targeted, future-focused research. Proposers may want to familiarize themselves with the scopes of the seven NCHRP 20-83 projects already underway. Background and summary information on overall effort and the individual projects can be found at <http://www.trb.org/CRP/SearchProjects.asp>.

SCOR now seeks additional candidates for funding under the NCHRP. SCOR may select one or more problems at its November 2009 meeting; \$1.0 million is currently available for programming. Subsequent selection decisions may be made in March 2010, and the amount of funding to be made available will be determined then. SCOR will consider funding levels recommended by submitters. Please be aware that if your candidate is selected, you will be invited to participate in the oversight panel that will further refine the scope, request proposals for the work, select the contractor, and provide oversight until the project is completed. You may decline the invitation; if so, you would be eligible to propose on the project when a request for proposals is posted.

In submitting problem statements, please review the attached NCHRP Project 20-83 Problem Statement Outline. Candidate problem statements should be sent as e-mail attachments to nchrp@nas.edu. **To be considered, problem submittals must arrive by September 15, 2009 — this is a firm deadline.**

Please direct questions to Lori L. Sundstrom, the NCHRP staff officer having prime responsibility for the overall administration of NCHRP Project 20-83, or Crawford Jencks, Deputy Director, CRP. Ms. Sundstrom can be reached at 202/334-3034 or lsundstrom@nas.edu, and Mr. Jencks can be reached at 202/334-3233 or cjencks@nas.edu.

TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP)
Project 20-83, "Long-Range Strategic Issues Facing the Transportation Industry"

Problem Statement Outline

TITLE:	Short, but descriptive.
FUTURE STRATEGIC ISSUE OR TOPIC:	Describe the issue or topic that you foresee 30 to 50 years in the future. Identify the trends or anticipated events that might affect the issue or topic and explain whether they are threats and/or opportunities for our quality of life.
TRANSPORTATION EFFECTS:	What is the interrelationship between the issue or topic and how transportation agencies will deliver and operate the transportation facilities and services of the future? What consequences or missed opportunities are related to not responding to or preparing for the future issue or topic?
KNOWN RESOURCE MATERIAL:	Identify supporting reference material, if any.
SUBMITTER'S CONTACT INFORMATION:	Name Affiliation Mailing Address Phone Fax E-mail Address

Problem statements should be no more than **2** pages long.
Please submit completed problem statement by September 15, 2009, to the following e-mail address:

nchrp@nas.edu

Questions on the process can be directed to the same address or lsundstrom@nas.edu.