

BEHAVIORAL TRAFFIC SAFETY COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM

A forum for coordinated and collaborative research, the Behavioral Traffic Safety Cooperative Research Program (BTSCRCP) addresses issues integral to the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), and traffic safety professionals at all levels of government and the private sector. The BTSCRCP can provide practical solutions to save lives, prevent injuries, and reduce costs of road traffic crashes associated with unsafe behaviors. The BTSCRCP is jointly managed by NHTSA and GHSA and carried out by the Transportation Research Board (TRB).

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BTSCRCP Program Description

The GHSA Executive Board serves as the Governing Board for the BTSCRCP. The Board consists of representatives of the 10 NHTSA regions and appoints the GHSA Research Committee, who monitors and facilitates the activities of BTSCRCP. Its ultimate goal is to oversee a quality research program that is committed to addressing research issues facing the State Highway Safety Offices and to promote research findings that improve highway safety.

Each year the Research Committee facilitates the development of a research project problem solicitation. Anyone can write or contribute to preparing a problem statement in conjunction with a State Highway Safety Office; however, only State Highway Offices, GHSA Executive Board members, GHSA Committees, or NHTSA can submit a problem statement to BTSCRCP.

Submitters are strongly encouraged to do a literature search, before submitting, to ensure the problem hasn't been solved or isn't being studied already. Submitters can go through their State Highway Safety Offices or submit to TRB. TRB will reach out to State Offices for approval of research problem statements that are sent directly to TRB. NHTSA and TRB staff will review the submitted research project problem statements and provide feedback to the Governing Board. The Governing Board gives final approval of the annual research projects.

Once the research projects are approved, TRB assigns the problem statements to technical panels of experts who provide guidance on the technical aspects of the research and translate the problem statements into BTSCRCP research Requests for Proposals (RFPs) with well-defined

objectives. On the basis of these statements, TRB solicits research proposals from private and public research organizations that can demonstrate capability and experience in the problem area to be researched.

The technical panels of experts reviews the proposals, recommend contract awards, monitor research in progress, provide technical guidance, and review reports for acceptability and for accomplishing the research plan. They also provide counsel to TRB staff in matters of overall project administration. Selected agencies perform research under contract to the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, guided by the *Procedural Manual for Contractors Conducting Research in the Transportation Research Board's Cooperative Research Programs.*

Research findings are published in the BTSCRP Reports series. The reporting format is designed specifically to accommodate highway traffic safety officials and technical staffs. All reports are also available electronically, free of charge.