



TRB BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE SUCCESS STORIES

Highway Capacity and Quality of Service
(HCQS) Committee

Bill Knowles, P.E., Texas DOT,
Research Subcommittee Chair



Highway Capacity and Quality of Service Committee (AHB40)

- Concerned with investigating the physical and non-physical factors which affect:
 - Capacity
 - Traffic flow
 - Comfort
 - Convenience
 - Safety
- Responsible for developing computational techniques for quantifying the effects of these factors on:
 - Capacity
 - Traffic flow
 - Quality of service



Research Lessons Learned

- Research development needs a Champion
 - Someone who will successfully usher the project statement from inception to selection
 - Someone who has a sincere interest/passion
- Obtain State DOT project sponsor to:
 - Submit the statement
 - Ensure support from their own DOT
 - Mobilize support from other DOTs (especially those on the committee)
 - Enlist support from other DOTs (non-committee members)

Research Lessons Learned (cont.)

- Research must clearly identify and focus on customer needs
 - Who are our customers?
 - How do our customers define success?
 - How do we make our customers successful?
- Research must be marketed to improve chances of selection
 - Clearly define the issue
 - Identify the path to a solution
 - Communicate the benefit of implementation
 - Safety
 - Cost savings
 - Congestion reduction
 - Innovation, etc.

Research Lessons Learned (cont.)

- Explore opportunities for joint submissions with other TRB committees
 - Create effective partnerships
 - Improve selection chances
 - Promote implementation success
 - Enhance return on investment
- Focus on quality research projects instead of striving for quantity
 - Optimize limited available time to improve project statements
 - Concentrate consideration on true committee research needs
- Obtain panel committee membership on selected research projects
 - Ensure conducted research maintains original intent
 - Provide active voice on research committee

