



## HOW CAN I BECOME INVOLVED IN HMCRP?

There are four ways to become involved in HMCRP:

### (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. Describe the specific research proposed, how it relates to the problem, and, if possible, what approach and tasks are envisioned. Include an estimate of the funds, as well as the time needed to complete the research. A problem statement outline can be found on the HMCRP website at [www.TRB.org/HMCRP](http://www.TRB.org/HMCRP). Problem statements are typically due in July of each year.

The HMCRP Technical Oversight Panel meets in the fall to review problem statements and select the next fiscal year's program.

### (2) Volunteer to participate on a project panel.

After it is announced, each project is assigned to a panel, which provides technical guidance and counsel throughout the life of the project.

TRB normally solicits nominations in late fall or early winter for people to serve on project panels for the next fiscal year's projects. In response to TRB's solicitation for nominations, any interested person may self-nominate or be nominated for membership on a project panel. Submit a resume and an HMCRP nominating form, which can be downloaded from the HMCRP website at [www.TRB.org/HMCRP](http://www.TRB.org/HMCRP).

(3) Prepare a proposal to conduct research. In response to HMCRP RFPs, any individual, organization, 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 HMCRP website at [www.TRB.org/HMCRP](http://www.TRB.org/HMCRP).

(4) Use the research results. HMCRP products are developed in response to problems faced by hazardous materials stakeholders. When faced with a hazardous materials transportation issue, use HMCRP products for guidance.

## SCOPE OF HMCRP PROJECTS

HMCRP can address any issues faced by hazardous materials transportation stakeholders. Some projects may apply to specific freight modes, while others may apply to all modes of freight transportation. Projects may target areas as diverse as emergency response, risk management, environmental impacts, conditional release probabilities, hazardous materials commodity flow studies, and root cause analysis of hazardous materials incidents.

HMCRP products are a series of research reports that hazardous materials stakeholders, government agencies, and other interested parties can consult when addressing hazardous materials transportation issues.

## TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

500 Fifth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

## THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

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National Research Council

## HMCRP Hazardous Materials Cooperative Research Program



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD  
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## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM

### WHAT IS HMCRP?

The Hazardous Materials Cooperative Research Program (HMCRP) was authorized as a pilot program in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) of 2005. It is an industry-driven, applied research program that develops near-term, practical solutions to improve the information used in managing risk associated with the transportation of hazardous materials. HMCRP is managed by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academies and sponsored by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

### HOW IS HMCRP FUNDED?

HMCRP is authorized by Congress and funded as part of the periodic surface transportation legislation.

### HOW IS HMCRP GOVERNED?

The HMCRP is governed by an HMCRP Technical Oversight Panel that is appointed by TRB and composed of a cross section of public- and private-sector stakeholders, including shippers, carriers, state transportation departments, local governments, nonprofit entities, emergency response agencies, and academia, as well as U.S. DOT and other federal agencies.

### WHERE DO THE RESEARCH IDEAS ORIGINATE?

Anyone may submit an idea or problem statement for hazardous materials transportation research at any time to TRB, but there is an annual Request for

Information posted on [www.TRB.org/HMCRP](http://www.TRB.org/HMCRP) each spring, with submittals due at the end of July for consideration in the following year's program.

### WHO SELECTS THE RESEARCH TOPICS?

The HMCRP Technical Oversight Panel selects projects that will result in applied research products that the hazardous materials stakeholders will be able to use immediately upon the completion of the research. The Oversight Panel also finds guidance in the recommendations of TRB *Special Report 283: Cooperative Research for Hazardous Materials Transportation: Defining the Need, Converging on Solutions*.

### WHAT HAPPENS AFTER RESEARCH TOPICS ARE SELECTED?

TRB follows a cooperative research process that it has used successfully for almost 50 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 posted on [www.TRB.org/HMCRP](http://www.TRB.org/HMCRP). Those previously expressing interest via the HMCRP website are notified immediately. The weekly TRB E-Newsletter provides notice for others. Individuals and organizations 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 to eight people from the hazardous materials industry, emergency response community, consultants, academia, state and local governments, as well as liaisons from the federal government. TRB selects project panel members because of their expertise and interest in the research topic and carefully screens panel members for potential conflicts of interest in connection with the particular research project. Panel members serve as individuals, not as representatives of their affiliations.

### WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT OF HMCRP PROJECT PANEL MEMBERS?

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

### ARE PROJECT PANEL MEMBERS COMPENSATED?

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

### HOW CAN I OBTAIN HMCRP PRODUCTS?

All HMCRP products are available on the HMCRP website at [www.TRB.org/HMCRP](http://www.TRB.org/HMCRP).