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Continuing Project to Synthesize Information on Highway Problems

A staff digest of the progress and status of NCHRP Project 20-5, "Synthesis of Information Related to Highway Problems," for which the Transportation Research Board is the agency conducting the research. The Principal Investigators responsible for the project are Thomas L. Copas and Herbert A. Pennock, serving under the Special Technical Activities Division of the Board.

INTRODUCTION

Administrators, practicing engineers, and researchers continually face highway problems on which much information already exists, either in documented form or in terms of undocumented experience and practice. Unfortunately, this information is often fragmented, scattered, and underevaluated. Often it is unknown to the person normally responsible for making decisions related to the topic. As a consequence, full knowledge of what has been learned about a problem is frequently not brought to bear on its solution. Costly research findings may go unused, valuable experience may be overlooked, and due consideration may not be given to recommended practices for solving or alleviating the problem.

There exists a vast storehouse of information relating to nearly every subject of concern to highway administrators and engineers. Much of it resulted from research and much from successful application of the ideas of practitioners faced with problems in their day-to-day work. Because, there has been no systematic means for bringing such useful information together and making it available to the entire highway community, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials has, through the mechanism of the National Cooperative Highway Research Program, authorized the Transportation Research Board to undertake a continuing study, NCHRP Project 20-5, "Synthesis of Information Related to Highway Problems," which is intended to search out and synthesize useful knowledge from all possible sources and to prepare documented reports on current practices in the subject areas of concern. Reports from this endeavor constitute an NCHRP report series, Synthesis of Highway Practice, which collects and

assembles the various forms of information into single concise documents pertaining to specific highway problems or sets of closely related problems.

THE SYNTHESIS PROGRAM

This synthesis series attempts to report on the various practices, making specific recommendations where appropriate but without the detailed directions usually found in handbooks or design manuals. Nonetheless, these documents can serve similar purposes, for each is a compendium of the best knowledge available on those measures found to be the most successful in resolving specific problems. The extent to which they are utilized in this fashion will be tempered by the breadth of the user's knowledge in the particular problem area.

To develop these syntheses in a comprehensive manner and to ensure inclusion of significant knowledge, the Transportation Research Board analyzes available information assembled from numerous sources, including state highway and transportation departments. A panel of experts in the subject area is established to guide the researchers in organizing and evaluating the data collected on each topic and to review the synthesis report.

For each topic the project objectives are: (1) to locate and assemble documented information; (2) to learn what practice has been used for solving or alleviating the problems; (3) to identify all ongoing research; (4) to learn what problems remain largely unsolved; (5) to organize, evaluate, and document the useful information that is acquired; (6) to evaluate the effectiveness of the synthesis after it has been in the hands of its users for a period of time.

TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

Each synthesis is an immediately useful document that records practices that were acceptable within the limitations of the knowledge available at the time of its preparation. As the processes of advancement continue, new knowledge can be expected to be added to that which is now at hand.

Available Publications and Studies in Progress

The 88 published Syntheses of Highway Practice that have been prepared under this project to date are listed in Table 1. Two Research Results Digests on topics studied under the project are also listed. Copies of these Syntheses and Digests can be obtained from the Publications Office, Transportation Research Board, 2101 Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418. A check or money order must accompany orders totaling \$10.00 or less.

Work is currently under way on the 23 topics listed in Table 2. Questions on these topics should be addressed to the project investigators, Thomas L. Copas and Herbert A. Pennock, who can be reached at (202) 334-3242.

Submission and Selection of Topics

One part of project procedures that is not widely understood is the process for submission and selection of topics. NCHRP Project Committee SP20-5 meets each Fall to select topics for study using funds from the upcoming fiscal year. The membership of this committee is given in Table 3. Current funding allows for initiation of about 10 or 11 syntheses per year. This number plus some alternate topics are selected by the committee at the Fall meeting. Topics selected for the FY '82 program are listed in Table 4. It is unlikely that those near the bottom of the list will be studied at this time.

The following factors are considered in the selection process for synthesis topics:

• The problem should be widespread enough to generate broad interest in the synthesis.

• The problem should be timely and critical with respect to economic impact, safety, or social impact.

• The problem is appropriate if current practice is nonuniform or inconsistent from agency to agency, or if the validity of some practices appears to be questionable.

• The quality and quantity of useful available information should indicate a need to organize and compress that which has already been learned and written on the topic.

• The topic should not be one where ongoing research or other activities in progress might be expected to render the synthesis obsolete shortly after completion. Each year many more topics are suggested for the committee's consideration than can be programmed for study in Project 20-5. Nevertheless, the continued success of this project depends on a constant supply of worthy synthesis topics. The interest of those who have recommended topics is sincerely appreciated, and they are urged to continue. Candidate topics are suggested by members of the committee and from a variety of other sources. State highway and transportation department personnel may submit suggestions for synthesis topics directly to the NCHRP Program Director or, if desired, through their State TRB Representative. Topics suggested must be accompanied by a brief scope statement or discussion of the problem.

Conduct of the Studies

Throughout the year, following the project committee's selection of topics, studies are initiated in the order of priority assigned by the committee. A panel consisting of practitioners and researchers is formed for each topic. At its first meeting, this topic panel thoroughly discusses the topic, refines the scope, suggests sources of information, and identifies and discusses potential topic consultants.

Following this meeting, an agreement is negotiated with a consultant to gather information on the topic, synthesize it, and draft a report. Typically, the agreement covers 30 to 40 man-days over a period of about one year. Information gathering and preparation of the first draft of the synthesis report usually take from 6 to 9 months. This draft is reviewed by the topic panel with the consultant at the second panel meeting. A revised draft is then prepared by the author and reviewed by the topic panel. Subsequent drafts and meetings are scheduled if needed, although this rarely occurs.

After the topic panel is substantially satisfied with the report, a final draft is sent to the members of NCHRP Project Committee SP20-5 for their approval. At the same time, members of the topic panel have their last chance to review the report. Comments from these reviews are incorporated into the final report, which is usually published as an NCHRP Synthesis of Highway Practice.

Index of Topic Subjects

Table 5 contains an index to published syntheses and topics now under study, as well as those expected to be started through 1982.

The NCHRP Projects Engineer responsible for Project 20-5 is Robert J. Reilly, who can be reached at (202) 334-3224.

Table 1 COMPLETED TOPICS

No.	Title, Pages, Price	No.	Title, Pages, Price
Synt	heses	47.	Effect of Weather on Highway Construction (1978) 29 pp., \$3.20
	martin Control for Boson Maintenant (1000) 47 40.00	48.	Priority Programming and Project Selection (1978) 31 pp., \$3.20
1. 2.	Bridge Approach Design and Construction Practices (1969) 30	49. 50	Upen-Graded Friction Courses for Highways (1978) 50 pp., \$4.00 Durability of Drainage Bine (1978) 27 pp. \$2.60
2.	DD. \$2.00	51.	Construction Contract Staffing (1978) 62 pp. \$6.00
3.	Traffic-Safe and Hydraulically Efficient Drainage Practice	52.	Management and Selection Systems for Highway Maintenance
	(1969) 38 pp. (microfiche only)*		Equipment (1978) 17 pp., \$4.40
4.	Concrete Bridge Deck Durability (1970) 28 pp. (microfiche only)*	53.	Precast Concrete Elements for Transportation Facilities (1978)
6.	Principles of Project Scheduling and Monitoring (1970) 43 pp.	54	48 pp., \$5.60 Regualing Materials for Highways (1978) 53 pp. \$5.60
	\$2.40	55.	State Highway and Transportation Data Storage and Retrieval
7.	Motorist Aid Systems (1971) 28 pp., \$2.40		Systems (1978) 30 pp., \$4.80
8.	Construction of Embankments (1971) 38 pp. (microfiche only)*	56.	Joint-Related Distress in PCC PavementCause, Prevention and
5.	DD. \$2.80	57	Renabilitation (1979) 36 pp., \$5.20 Durability of Congrete Bridge Decks (1979) 61 pp. \$6.00
10.	Recruiting, Training, and Retaining Maintenance and Equipment	58.	Consequences of Deferred Maintenance (1979) 24 pp. \$4.40
	Personnel (1972) 35 pp., \$2.80	59.	Relationship of Asphalt Cement Properties to Pavement Dura-
11.	Development of Management Capability (1972) 50 pp., \$3.20		bility (1979) 43 pp., \$5.60
12.	Operations (1972) 39 pp \$2.80	60.	Failure and Repair of Continuously Reinforced Concrete Pave-
13.	Radio Spectrum Frequency Management (1972) 32 pp., \$2.80	61.	Changeable Message Signs (1979) 37 pp \$5.60
14.	Skid Resistance (1972) 66 pp., \$4.00	62.	Potential State Resources for Financing Transportation Pro-
15.	Statewide Transportation Planning - Needs and Requirements		grams (1979) 34 pp., \$5.20
16	(1973) 41 pp. (micronene only)* Continuously Reinforged Congrete Peyement (1973) 23 pp. \$2.80	63.	Design and Use of Highway Shoulders (1979) 26 pp., \$4.80
17.	Pavement Traffic Marking - Materials and Application Affecting	65	Quality Assurance (1979) 42 pp. \$5.60
	Serviceability (1973) 44 pp., \$3.60	66.	Glare Screen Guidelines (1979) 17 pp., \$4.40
18.	Erosion Control on Highway Construction (1973) 52 pp., \$4.00	67.	Bridge Drainage Systems (1979) 44 pp., \$5.60
19.	(1973) 40 pp \$3.60	68.	Motor Vehicle Size and Weight Regulation, Enforcement, and
20.	Rest Areas (1973) 38 pp., \$3.60	69	Permit Operations (1980) 45 pp., \$6.00 Bus Route and Schedule Planning Guidelines (1980) 99 pp. \$8.00
21.	Highway Location Reference Methods (1974) 30 pp., \$3.20	70.	Design of Sedimentation Basins (1980) 53 pp., \$6.80
22.	Maintenance Management of Traffic Signal Equipment and	71.	Direction Finding from Arterials to Destinations (1980) 50 pp.,
9 2	Systems (1974) 41 pp. (microfiche only)*	-	\$6.40
23. 24.	Minimizing Deiging Chemical Use (1974) 58 pp. \$4.00	72.	Transportation Needs Studies and Financial Constraints (1980) 54
25.	Reconditioning High-Volume Freeways in Urban Areas (1974) 56	73.	Alternative Work Schedules: Impacts on Transportation (1980)
	pp., \$4.00		54 pp., \$6.80
26.	Roadway Design in Seasonal Frost Areas (1975) 104 pp., \$6.00	74.	State Transit-Management Assistance to Local Communities
	31 pp. (microfiche only)*	75	(1980) 34 pp., \$6.00 Transit Boards—Composition Poles and Presedures (1981) 84
28.	Partial-Lane Pavement Widening (1975) 30 pp., \$3.20	10.	DD. \$6.20
29.	Treatment of Soft Foundations for Embankments (1975) 25 pp.,	76.	Collection and Use of Pavement Condition Data (1981) 74 pp.,
20	\$3.20 Bituminous Emulcions for Highway Devenants (1066) 56		\$8.00
30.	\$4.80	77.	Evaluation of Pavement Maintenance Strategies (1981) 56 pp., \$7 40
31.	Highway Tunnel Operations (1975) 29 pp., \$3.20	78.	Value Engineering in Preconstruction and Construction (1981) 23
32.	Effects of Studded Tires (1975) 46 pp., \$4.00		pp., \$6.40
33.	Acquisition and Use of Geotechnical Information (1976) 40 pp.,	79.	Contract Time Determination (1981) 45 pp., \$7.20
34.	94.00 Policies for Accommodation of Utilities on Highway Bights-of-	80.	Formulating and Justifying Highway Maintenance Budgets (1981)
	Way (1976) 22 pp., \$3.20	81.	Experiences in Transportation System Management (in publica-
35.	Design and Control of Freeway Off-Ramp Terminals (1976) 61		tion)
26	pp., \$4.40	82.	Criteria for Evaluation of Truck Weight Enforcement Programs
.00	Products, and Performance (1976) 70 pp \$4.80	83	(In publication) Bus Transit Accessibility for the Handicanned in Urban Areas (in
37.	Lime-Fly Ash-Stabilized Bases and Subbases (1976) 66 pp., \$4.80	00.	publication)
38.	Statistically Oriented End-Result Specifications (1976) 40 pp.,	84.	Evaluation Criteria and Priority Setting for State Highway
	\$4.00	·	Programs (in publication)
59.	Fransportation Requirements for the Handicapped, Elderly, and Economically Disedvantaged (1976) 54 pp. \$4.40	85.	Energy Involved in Construction Materials and Procedures (in publication)
10.	Staffing and Management for Social. Economic. and Environ-	86.	Effects of Traffic-Induced Vibrations on Bridge Deck Repairs (in
	mental Impact Assessment (1977) 43 pp., \$4.00	••••	publication)
11.	Bridge Bearings (1977) 62 pp., \$4.80	87.	Highway Noise Barriers (in publication)
±2. 13	Design of file Foundations (1977) 68 pp., \$4.80 Energy Effects Efficiencies and Prospects for Various Modes of	88.	Underwater Inspection and Repair of Bridge Substructures (in publication)
	Transportation (1977) 57 pp., \$4.80		publication
14.	Consolidation of Concrete for Pavements, Bridge Decks, and	Resea	rch Results Digests
	Overlays (1977) 61 pp., \$4.80		
15.	Rapid-Setting Materials for Patching of Concrete (1977) 13 pp., \$2.40	100.	Safe Conduct of Traffic Through Highway Construction and
16.	Recording and Reporting Methods for Highway Maintenance	106	Use of Waste Materials in Highway Construction and Mainte-
	Expenditures (1977) 35 pp., \$3.60		nance, 2 pp., \$1.00

These syntheses are available from TRB in microfiche form <u>only</u> at a cost of \$4.00 each.

Table 2

TOPICS BEING STUDIED

No.	Title	No.	Title
8-10	Photologging	12-11	Bridge Designs to Reduce and Facilitate Maintenance and
9-12	Welding and Inspection Practices in Bridge Fabrication		Repair
11-04	Techniques for Minimizing Reflection Cracking of Pavement	12-12	New Products Evaluation Procedures
	Overlays	13-01	Contract Claims: Causes and Methods of Settlement
11-05	Utilization of Information Systems in Construction Engineer-	13-02	Methods of Cost-Effectiveness Analysis for Highway Projects
	ing Management	13-03	Managing State Transportation Finance
11-06	Geotechnical Instrumentation for Monitoring Field Perfor-	13-04	Resurfacing with Portland Cement Concrete
	mance	13-05	Statewide Transportation Planning
11-07	Pavement Subsurface Drainage Systems	13-06	Transit Ownership/Management Options for Small Urban and
12-03	Use of Data Processing and Accident Location Systems for	•	Rural Areas
	Highway Accident Analysis	13-07	Storm Water Management for Transportation Facilities
12-04	Resealing Joints and Cracks in Rigid and Flexible Pavements	13-08	Bridge Posting Practices
12-06	Shallow Foundations for Highway Structures	13-09	Highway Inventory Systems
12-08	Coordinating TSM and Land-Use Planning and Implementation to Meet Development and Transportation Objectives	13-10	Risk Assessment Processes for of Hazardous Materials Transportation

portation 13-11 Criteria for Decisions Involving Historic Bridges

Table 3

NCHRP PROJECT COMMITTEE SP20-5

Chairman Ray R. Biege, Jr. Consultant

Verdi Adam Louisiana Dept. of Transp. and Dev.

Robert N. Bothman Oregon Dept. of Transportation

Jack Freidenrich New Jersey Dept. of Transportation

David Gedney DeLeuw, Cather and Company

Sanford LaHue Federal Highway Administration

Bryant Mather **USAE Waterways Experiment Station** Thomas H. May Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation

Theodore F. Morf Consultant

Edward A. Mueller Reynolds, Smith and Hills

Milton P. Criswell Federal Highway Administration

K. B. Johns Transportation Research Board

SYNTHESIS TOPICS SELECTED FOR THE FY '82 PROGRAM

No.	Title	No.	Title
14-01	Practical Guidelines for Minimizing Tort Liability	14-12	Use of Epoxies for Repairing PCC Concrete
14-02	Maintenance of Traffic Signals and Surveillance Systems	14-13	Impact of Reductions-in-Force on State Highway Construc-
14-03	Reducing Delays, Damage, and Costs Through Improved High-		tion Contract Supervision and Control of Work
	way-Utility Coordination	14-14	Recruiting, Training, and Retaining Engineering Technicians
14-04	Asphalt Overlay Design Procedures	14-15	Hazardous Highway Element Identification Procedures
14-05	Material Certification and Material-Certification Effective-	14-16	Railroad-Highway Grade-Crossing Surfaces
	ness	14-17	Traffic Data Collection, Analysis, and Forecasting Methods
14-06	Maintenance Management Systems		and Procedures
14-07	Maintenance Activities Accomplished by Contract	14-18	Highway Bridge Fracture Studies
14-08	Criteria for Use of Asphaltic Concrete Friction Courses	14-19	Techniques for Minimizing Pavement Roughness at Bridge
14-09	Energy Conservation in Transportation		Approaches
14-10	Truck Impacts on Highway Safety and Operations	14-20	Vehicle Downsizing and Roadside Safety Hardware
14-11	Research, Development, and Implementation Activities and	14-21	Equipment for Obtaining Pavement Management Data
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Table 5

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