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National Cooperative Highway Research Program

RESEARCH RESULTS DIGEST

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Responsible Senior Program Officer: Crawford F. Jencks

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. Individual studies for the project are managed by Stephen F. Maher, P.E. and Donna L. Vlasak, Senior Program Officers, serving under the Studies and Information Services Division of the Board, Stephen R. Godwin, Director.

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. this information Unfortunately, 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 alleviating the problem.

There exists vast storehouse а 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 had 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." This study is intended to search out and synthesize useful knowledge from all possible sources and to prepare documented

Suggestions for synthesis topics may be sent to the NCHRP Program Director at any time (see address on back). You can also leave your recommendation at: http://www2.nas.edu/trbcrp under "GOT A SYNTHESIS TOPIC?" Topics suggested must be accompanied by a brief scope statement including a discussion of the problem (a paragraph or two). A title (preferably 10 words or less) and the name and affiliation of the submitter are also necessary. Identification of information sources would also be appreciated. Suggestions for updates of published syntheses are also welcome. A committee meets once a year, usually in the late spring, to make the final selections. To be considered at the next spring meeting, all recommended topics should be posted by January 31 If a topic is not selected, the problem statement must be resubmitted the following year to be reconsidered

Interested in writing a synthesis? For details, contact Stephen F Maher, P E by e-mail at smaher@nas.edu, or by phone at 202-334-3245 or Donna L Vlasak, by e-mail at dvlasak@nas.edu, or by phone at 202-334-2974

reports on current practices in the subject areas of concern. Reports from this endeavor constitute an NCHRP report series, Synthesis of Highway Practice, that 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 some 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 used 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 departments of transportation. 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; and (6) to evaluate the effectiveness of the synthesis after it has been in the hands of its users for a period of time.

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; eventually the synthesis may need to be updated or redone. The readers and users of the syntheses are in the best position to know when this has occurred. Whenever you believe that a synthesis should be updated, it would be appreciated if you would write to TRB (address on back) and let us know.

Studies in Progress and Planned for 1998

Work is currently under way on the topics listed in Table 1. Topics selected for the current program are listed in Table 2. Questions on these topics should be addressed to the project study managers, Stephen F. Maher, P.E. (202-334-3245) or Donna L. Vlasak (202-334-2974).

Selection of Topics

NCHRP Project Committee SP20-5 meets each year 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 12 syntheses per year. This number, plus some alternate topics, is selected by the committee at the annual project meeting.

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

- The topic should address a problem that is widespread enough to generate broad interest in the synthesis.
- The topic should be timely and critical with respect to safety, economic, or social impact.
- The topic 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 by a variety of other sources, including state department of transportation personnel; FHWA, AASHTO, and TRB committees; and other practioners and researchers.

Available Publications

The Syntheses of Highway Practice that have been completed under this project are listed in Table 4. Three Research Results Digests on topics studied under the project are also listed. In addition, two unpublished reports are available. The unpublished studies are for information only as they have not undergone the full review process of a published study. Copies of these Syntheses, Digests, and unpublished reports can be obtained from the Publications Office, Transportation Research Board, 2101 Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418; by calling (202) 334-3214; and through the Internet at http://www.nas.edu/trb/index.html.

Index of Topic Subjects

Table 5 is an index to published syntheses, unpublished studies, and digests and topics under study, as well as those expected to be started through 1998.

Conduct of the Studies

Throughout the year, following the project committee's selection of topics, studies are essentially 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 a period of 15 months. 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, often at the second panel meeting. A revised draft is then prepared by the consultant. Subsequent drafts and meetings are scheduled if needed, although this rarely occurs.

After the staff 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, which is usually published as an NCHRP Synthesis of Highway Practice.

Table 1 TOPICS BEING STUDIED

No.	Title	No.	Title
28-01	Best Management Practices for Environmental Issues Related to	29-01	Effective Research Programs
	Highway and Street Maintenance	29-02	Roadway Incident Diversion Practices
28-02	Geotechnical Related Development and Implementation of	29-03	Performance Survey on Open-Graded Friction Course Mixes
	LRFD Methods	29-04	DOT Project Management Systems
28-03	Project Development Methodologies for Reconstruction of	29-05	Operational Impacts of Median Width on Larger Vehicles
	Urban Freeways and Expressways	29-06	Consultants for DOT Design Work
28-06	Methods to Achieve Rut Resistant Durable Asphalt Pavements	29-07	Management and Selection Systems for Highway Maintenance
28-08			Equipment
28-10		29-08	Measuring In-situ Mechanical Properties of Pavement Subgrade
28-12	Traffic Signals Near Highway-Rail Intersections		Soils

Table 2
SYNTHESIS TOPICS SELECTED FOR THE FY 1998 PROGRAM

No.	Title	No.	Title
30-01	The System Engineering Process: An Effective Methodology	30-09	Quality Assurance of Structural Materials
	for Developing Traffic Control Systems	30-10	Maintenance of Highway Edgedrains
30-02	Statewide Multimodal Planning	30-11	Design and Testing of Pavement Friction Characteristics
30-03	Corridor Management Plans and Policies	30-12	Construction Techniques Using Lane Occupancy
30-04	Risk Management Practices to Reduce Lead Time on Right-of-		
	Way Clearance	Alterno	ate Topics
30-05	Assessing Economic Development Benefits from Major		
	Transportation Investments	30-13	Impact of Maintenance Downsizing on Handling Quick
30-06	Sleep Deprivation Countermeasures for Motorist Safety		Response Needs
30-07	Data Sharing and Data Partnerships for Highways	30-14	State Practices of Assessing Value of Access Points
30-08	Bridge Deck Expansion Joint Performance	30-15	Bridge Deck Overlay Performance

Table 3
NCHRP PROJECT COMMITTEE SP20-5

Chairman Jon P. Underwood Texas Department of Transportation (Retired)

Kenneth C. Afferton New Jersey Department of Transportation (Retired)	Henry H. Rentz Federal Highway Administration
John J. Henry Pennsylvania Transportation Institute	Earl C. Shirley California Department of Transportation (Retired)
Gloria J. Jeff Federal Highway Administration	J. Richard Young, Jr. Mississippi Department of Transportation (Retired)
C. Ian MacGillivray Iowa Department of Transportation	Liaisons Richard A. McComb
ugene E. Ofstead Minnesota Department of Transportation	Federal Highway Administration
	Robert E. Spicher Transportation Research Board

No. Title, Pages, Price

- Traffic Control for Freeway Maintenance (1969) 47 pp., \$2.20
- Bridge Approach Design and Construction Practices (1969) 30 pp. (microfiche)*
- Traffic-Safe and Hydraulically Efficient Drainage Practice (1969) 38 pp. (microfiche)*
- Concrete Bridge Deck Durability (1970) 28 pp. (microfiche)* (supplemented by Synthesis 57) Scour at Bridge Waterways (1970) 37 pp. (microfiche)*
- Principles of Project Scheduling and Monitoring (1970) 43 pp. (microfiche)
- Motorist Aid Systems (1971) 28 pp., \$2.40
 Construction of Embankments (1971) 38 pp. (microfiche)*
- Pavement Rehabilitation-Materials and Techniques (1972) 41 pp. (out of
- Recruiting, Training, and Retaining Maintenance and Equipment Personnel (1972) 35 pp. (microfiche)*
- Development of Management Capability (1972) 50 pp. (out of print)
- Telecommunications Systems for Highway Administration and Operations (1972) 39 pp., \$2.80 (superseded by Synthesis 165)
- 13. Radio Spectrum Frequency Management (1972) 32 pp., \$2.80
- Skid Resistance (1972) 66 pp. (microfiche)*
 Statewide Transportation Planning—Needs and Requirements (1973) 41 pp. (microfiche)* (superseded by Synthesis 95)
- Continuously Reinforced Concrete Pavement (1973) 23 pp., \$2.80
- Pavement Traffic Marking—Materials and Application Affecting
- Serviceability (1973) 44 pp., \$3.60 (superseded by Synthesis 138) Erosion Control on Highway Construction (1973) 52 pp. (microfiche)
- Design, Construction, and Maintenance of PCC Pavement Joints (1973) 40
- 20.
- pp. (out of print)
 Rest Areas (1973) 38 pp., \$3.60
 Highway Location Reference Methods (1974) 30 pp., \$3.20
- Maintenance Management of Traffic Signal Equipment and Systems (1974) 41 pp. (microfiche)* (superseded by Synthesis 114)
- Getting Research Findings Into Practice (1974) 24 pp., \$3.20
- Minimizing Deicing Chemical Use (1974) 58 pp. (microfiche)*
- Reconditioning High-Volume Freeways in Urban Areas (1974) 56 pp.,
- 26. Roadway Design in Seasonal Frost Areas (1975) 104 pp. (microfiche)*
- PCC Pavements for Low-Volume Roads and City Streets (1975) 31 pp. (microfiche)*
- Partial-Lane Pavement Widening (1975) 30 pp., \$3.20
- Treatment of Soft Foundations for Embankments (1975) 25 pp., \$3.20 (supplemented by Synthesis 147)
- Bituminous Emulsions for Highway Pavements (1975) 76 pp. (microfiche)*

- 31. Highway Tunnel Operations (1975) 29 pp., \$3.20
 32. Effects of Studded Tires (1975) 46 pp., \$4.00
 33. Acquisition and Use of Geotechnical Information (1976) 40 pp., \$4.00
- Policies for Accommodation of Utilities on Highway Rights of Way (1976) 34. 22 pp. (microfiche)* Design and Control of Freeway Off-Ramp Terminals (1976) 61 pp., \$4.40
- Instrumentation and Equipment for Testing Highway Materials, Products,
- and Performance (1976) 70 pp., \$4.80
- Lime-Fly Ash-Stabilized Bases and Subbases (1976) 66 pp. (microfiche)*
- Statistically Oriented End-Result Specifications (1976) 40 pp., \$4.00
- Transportation Requirements for the Handicapped, Elderly, and Economically Disadvantaged (1976) 54 pp. (out of print)
- Staffing and Management for Social, Economic, and Environmental Impact Assessments (1977) 43 pp., \$4.00
 Bridge Bearings (1977) 62 pp. (microfiche)*
 Design of Pile Foundations (1977) 68 pp., \$4.80

- Energy Effects, Efficiencies, and Prospects for Various Modes of Transportation (1977) 57 pp., \$4.80 (supplemented by Synthesis 121) Consolidation of Concrete for Pavements, Bridge Decks, and Overlays
- (1977) 61 pp., \$4.80
- Rapid-Setting Materials for Patching of Concrete (1977) 13 pp. (out of
- Recording and Reporting Methods for Highway Maintenance Expenditures (1977) 35 pp., \$3.60

No. Title, Pages, Price

- Effect of Weather on Highway Construction (1978) 29 pp., \$3.20
- Priority Programming and Project Selection (1978) 31 pp. (out of print) 48
- 49. Open-Graded Friction Courses for Highways (1978) 50 pp., \$4.00
- Durability of Drainage Pipe (1978) 37 pp. (microfiche)*
- Construction Contract Staffing (1978) 62 pp., \$6.00 51.
- Management and Selection Systems for Highway Maintenance Equipment 52. (1978) 17 pp., \$4.40
- Precast Concrete Elements for Transportation Facilities (1978) 48 pp., 53. \$5.60
- Recycling Materials for Highways (1978) 53 pp. (microfiche)*
- Storage and Retrieval Systems for Highway and Transportation Data 55. (1978) 30 pp., \$4.80
- Joint-Related Distress in PCC Pavement-Cause, Prevention, and Rehabilitation (1979) 36 pp., \$5.20
- Durability of Concrete Bridge Decks (1979) 61 pp. (microfiche)* (supplements Synthesis 4)
- Consequences of Deferred Maintenance (1979) 24 pp., \$4.40
- Relationship of Asphalt Cement Properties to Pavement Durability (1979) 43 pp., \$5.60
- 60. Failure and Repair of Continuously Reinforced Concrete Pavement (1979) 42 pp., \$5.60
- Changeable Message Signs (1979) 37 pp., \$5.60
- Potential State Resources for Financing Transportation Programs (1979) 34 pp., \$5.20
- Design and Use of Highway Shoulders (1979) 26 pp., \$4.80
- Bituminous Patching Mixtures (1979) 26 pp., \$4.80 64.
- Quality Assurance (1979) 42 pp., \$5.60 Glare Screen Guidelines (1979) 17 pp., \$4.40 65.
- 66.
- Bridge Drainage Systems (1979) 44 pp., \$5.60 67.
- Motor Vehicle Size and Weight Regulation, Enforcement, and Permit 68. Operations (1980) 45 pp., \$6.00

 Bus Route and Schedule Planning Guidelines (1980) 99 pp., \$8.00

 Design of Sedimentation Basins (1980) 53 pp., \$6.80
- 69.
- 70.
- Direction Finding from Arterials to Destinations (1980) 50 pp., \$6.40 71.
- 72. Transportation Needs Studies and Financial Constraints (1980) 54 pp., \$6.40
- 73. Alternative Work Schedules: Impacts on Transportation (1980) 54 pp., \$6.80
- 74. State Transit-Management Assistance to Local Communities (1980) 34 pp., \$6.00
- Transit Boards-Composition, Roles, and Procedures (1981) 24 pp., \$6.20 Collection and Use of Pavement Condition Data (1981) 74 pp., \$8.00 75.
- 76.
- Evaluation of Pavement Maintenance Strategies (1981) 56 pp., \$7.40 77.
- 78. Value Engineering in Preconstruction and Construction (1981) 23 pp.,
- 79. Contract Time Determination (1981) 45 pp., \$7.20
- Formulating and Justifying Highway Maintenance Budgets (1981) 49 pp.,
- Experiences in Transportation System Management (1981) 88 pp., \$8.40
- Criteria for Evaluation of Truck Weight Enforcement Programs (1981) 74 pp., \$7.20
- Bus Transit Accessibility for the Handicapped in Urban Areas (1981) 73 pp., \$7.60
- Evaluation Criteria and Priority Setting for State Highway Programs (1981) 32 pp., \$6.40
- Energy Involved in Construction Materials and Procedures (1981) 34 pp., 85. \$6.40
- Effects of Traffic-Induced Vibrations on Bridge Deck Repairs (1981) 40 86. pp., \$6.80 Highway Noise Barriers (1981) 81 pp., \$7.20
- Underwater Inspection and Repair of Bridge Substructures (1981) 77 pp.,
- 89. Geotechnical Instrumentation for Monitoring Field Performance (1982) 46 pp., \$6.80 New-Product Evaluation Procedures (1982) 34 pp., \$6.80
- 90.
- 91. Highway Accident Analysis Systems (1982) 69 pp., \$7.60
- Minimizing Reflection Cracking of Pavement Overlays (1982) 38 pp., 92.

^{*}These syntheses are available from TRB in microfiche form only at a cost of \$10.00 each.

No. Title, Pages, Price

- Coordination of Transportation System Management and Land Use Management (1982) 38 pp., \$6.80 Photologging (1982) 38 pp., \$6.80
- 95. Statewide Transportation Planning (1982) 54 pp., \$7.20 (supersedes Synthesis 15)
- Pavement Subsurface Drainage Systems (1982) 38 pp., \$6.80
- Transit Ownership/Operation Options for Small Urban and Rural Areas 97. (1982) 28 pp., \$6.40
- 98. Resealing Joints and Cracks in Rigid and Flexible Pavements (1982) 62 pp., \$7.20
- Resurfacing with Portland Cement Concrete (1982) 90 pp., \$8.40
- 100. Managing State Highway Finance (1982) 23 pp., \$6.40
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