

# SHRP2 Quarterly Update

January 2008

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## Symposium Draws a Crowd

Nearly 150 people defied conventional wisdom, which cautions against scheduling anything other than a long nap after the TRB Annual Meeting, to attend a day-long symposium on research to improve techniques for nondestructive testing (NDT) of transportation infrastructure. The event was the first of a series of symposia sponsored jointly by the Forum of European Highway Research Laboratories (FEHRL) and the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP 2) to capture the best thinking of North America and Europe before specific research projects are let in SHRP 2. This workshop featured presentations on current and emerging technologies as well as on unmet needs and plans for developing new methods, which elicited useful discussion from participants. The presentations are available on the Renewal page of the SHRP 2 Website. The second symposium on NDT will be held April 25, 2008, in Slovenia.

Other SHRP 2 activities at the TRB Annual Meeting included presentations by staff at 16 committee meetings, two formal sessions to update progress on SHRP 2 safety and capacity research, and a display in the exhibit hall. The display featured updated Program Briefs for each of the four focus areas and a 4-page overview article that pres-



Preparing to present at the symposium on nondestructive testing on January 18, Steve Phillips, Secretary General, FEHRL (center), gets some technical help from SHRP 2 senior program officer Monica Starnes, while Randell Iwasaki (right), chief deputy director of Caltrans and chair of the Renewal Technical Coordinating Committee, reviews his notes before addressing the audience of nearly 150 attendees.

Bojan Leben of ZAG, the Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute, extends an invitation to TRA2008, the conference in Slovenia at which a second NDT symposium will be held.



ents the goals of SHRP 2 research in the words of national transportation leaders. These documents are available on the SHRP 2 Website.

## Program News

At its November 2007 meeting the SHRP 2 Oversight Committee approved reconfigured research plans for Travel Time Reliability and Capacity, and approved 15 new projects, which total almost \$50 million, for letting in 2008. Those projects are listed in the table below. The plans were approved by the Federal Highway Administration in December. The program schedule for 2008 is posted on the Website.

As of January 2008, 24 research projects are under way in SHRP 2 and contracts are being negotiated for eight more; the total contract amount for these 32 projects is \$38 million. Information about the individual projects is available on the SHRP 2 Website—the Program Briefs have short summaries

and the complete descriptions can be found under the Projects title in the navigation bar.

First deliverables from research projects are arriving and will be reviewed by the four Technical Coordinating Committees to determine if the preliminary data gathering and analysis support the follow-on research projects. A secondary outcome of the review will be to determine if any of these early findings warrant publication as stand-alone documents. Those that do will be published in the First Fruits series to communicate the outcomes of SHRP 2 research as early as possible.

SHRP 2 is seeking a senior program officer to manage contract research projects targeting the systematic mitigation of traffic congestion through control of non-recurring incidents and through collaborative planning of additions to highway capacity. The recruiting announcement is in the employment section of the National Academies Website: <http://www.nationalacademies.org>.

### SHRP 2 Projects to Be Advertised in 2008

Project	Project Title	March RFPs	July RFPs	2008 Total
<b>SAFETY</b>				
S04	Roadway Data Collection using Roadway Information Measurement Van		\$3.5M	
S06	Technical Coordination and Independent Quality Assurance for the Field Study		\$3M	
S07	In-Vehicle Driving Behavior Field Study		\$26.2M	
<i>Total for Safety</i>		<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$32.7M</i>	<i>\$32.7M</i>
<b>RENEWAL</b>				
R06a-x	Non-Destructive Technology Development Projects		\$4.65M	
R15a-x	Strategies for Integrating Utility and Transportation Agency Priorities in Renewal Projects: Field Studies		\$ .75M	
R19-B	Bridges for Service Life Beyond 100 Years: Service Limit State Design	\$1M		
<i>Total for Renewal</i>		<i>\$1M</i>	<i>\$5.4M</i>	<i>\$6.4M</i>
<b>RELIABILITY</b>				
L02	Establishing Monitoring Programs for Travel Time Reliability and Mobility (Reissue)		\$1.8M	
L04	Incorporating Reliability Performance Measures in Planning and Operations Modeling Tools		\$1.25M	
L10	Use of In-Vehicle Video Data to Explore How to Modify Driver Behavior that Causes Non-recurring Congestion	\$ .3M		
L11	Evaluating Alternative Operations Strategies	\$1M		
L13	Design and Implement a System for Archiving and Disseminating Data from SHRP 2 Reliability and Related Studies	\$1.5M		
<i>Total for Reliability</i>		<i>\$2.8M</i>	<i>\$3.05M</i>	<i>\$5.85M</i>
<b>CAPACITY</b>				
C06	Integration of Conservation, Highway Planning, and Environmental Permitting through Development of an Outcome-based Ecosystem-scale Approach and Corresponding Credit System	\$1.5M		
C07	Integrating SHRP 2 Products into the Collaborative Decision-Making Process	\$1.4M		
C08	Linking Community Visions and Highway Capacity Planning		\$.8M	
C09	Incorporating Greenhouse Gas Emissions into the Collaborative Decision-Making Process		\$.8M	
<i>Total for Capacity</i>		<i>\$2.9M</i>	<i>\$1.6M</i>	<i>\$4.5M</i>
<b>Total for all for Focus Areas</b>		<b>\$6.7M</b>	<b>\$42.75M</b>	<b>\$49.45M</b>



Promoting international exchange of talent and knowledge, the Dutch national transportation agency will fund a one-year loan of senior staff to TRB's SHRP 2. Shown at the signing of a memorandum of understanding are: TRB Executive Director Robert E. Skinner, Jr., Rijkswaterstaat Director Joris AI, and SHRP 2 Director Neil F. Hawks.

## International Activities

During 2007, Derek Sweet served as international coordinator while on loan to SHRP 2 from the Canadian Council of Deputy Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety. Derek's term of residency ended in December, and while he will continue communicating about SHRP 2 with a broad international audience, the Council has named a new loaned staff member. This month we welcome Ralph Hessian of the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works and Transportation to our staff for a one-year term.

Under a memorandum of understanding with the Netherlands Rijkswaterstaat that was signed during the TRB Annual Meeting, the Dutch national transportation agency will also provide loaned staff to SHRP 2 this year.

Corollary research projects and programs identified in many nations offer opportunities to exchange information and avoid unwarranted duplication in the conduct of the research. SHRP 2 welcomes the insight that loaned staff may bring to communicating with a global research community and its stakeholders.

## Planning for SHRP 2 Implementation

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act requires TRB to complete a report to Congress recommending the strategies and administrative structure to be used in implementing the results of SHRP 2. To meet this requirement, the National Research Council has appointed a TRB committee charged with preparing the report. The committee—chaired by Kirk T. Steudle, Director of the Michigan Department of Transportation—includes members of various SHRP 2 committees as well as members well-versed in implementing research and technology products, but not otherwise involved with SHRP 2. In preparation for the report to Congress and to address developing implementation plans, SHRP 2 Technical Coordinating Committees are beginning to consider implementation issues.

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