The National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) is seeking study topics for the FY 2021 Legal Studies Program. Ideas for study topics are due by December 1, 2020.

A forum for coordinated and collaborative research, the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) addresses issues integral to the state Departments of Transportation (DOTs) and transportation professionals at all levels of government and the private sector. The NCHRP provides practical, ready-to-implement solutions to pressing problems facing the industry.

The NCHRP Legal Research Digest series reports on timely legal issues, compile case law, or recommend specific solutions to specific problems. Each document is intended to provide transportation attorneys with authoritative, well-researched, specific information that is limited in scope. The studies focus on legal issues and problems having significance to state departments of transportation. The NCHRP Legal Research Digest provides legal research on a wide variety of relevant legal topics.

How to submit your ideas for legal study topics

Click here for a suggested format for submitting a legal topic. Legal study topics may be submitted electronically via this link.

Legal study topic selection process

Ideas submitted for study topics form the basis for selection of the annual Legal Research Program. Topics are selected by a project panel that meets once a year, typically in early fall. The NCHRP project panel members perform a preliminary screening and ordering of the topics. At the annual meeting they discuss the highest rated topics and make their final selection. It is expected that 4 new topics will be selected for the FY 2021 NCHRP Legal Program. Click here for a listing of all NCHRP Legal Projects.

The factors considered in the selection process for study topics are

(1) broad interest in the topic; (2) timely and critical with respect to the transit community at large; (3) quality and quantity of information already learned on the subject and; (4) ongoing research or other forthcoming potential release of significant information is expected that would render the Legal Research Digest obsolete.

Information on the NCHRP Program

Background Information on the NCHRP may be found at:
http://www.trb.org/NCHRP/NCHRP.aspx

NCHRP legal topics and publications may be found on the NCHRP website:
NCHRP Legal Topics
NCHRP Legal Research Digests

Thank you for your consideration

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at 202/334-3246 or gsmith@nas.edu.