



BEHAVIORAL TRAFFIC SAFETY COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM

WHAT IS BTSCRP?

The Behavioral Traffic Safety Cooperative Research Program (BTSCRP) is a forum for coordinated and collaborative research to address issues integral to the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), and traffic safety professionals at all levels of government and the private sector. BTSCRP provides practical, ready-to-implement solutions to save lives, prevent injuries, and reduce costs of road traffic crashes associated with unsafe behaviors. BTSCRP is a partnership between GHSA, NHTSA, and the Transportation Research Board (TRB).

HOW IS BTSCRP FUNDED?

BTSCRP, originally named the National Cooperative Research and Evaluation Program (NCREP), was established in the 2012 Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), Subsection 402(c). The program was continued in the 2015 Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. Funding was set at \$2.5 million and is withheld from the Section 402 grant program each federal fiscal year. In October 2017, GHSA entered into an agreement with TRB to manage the research activities. The program name was changed from NCREP to the Behavioral Traffic Safety Cooperative Research Program to clarify its purpose and to distinguish it from other TRB research programs.

HOW IS BTSCRP GOVERNED?

The GHSA Executive Board serves as the Governing Board for BTSCRP. The Board consists of representatives of the 10 NHTSA regions and appoints the GHSA Research Committee, which monitors and facilitates the activities of BTSCRP. Its ultimate goal is to oversee a quality research program that is committed to addressing research issues facing State Highway Safety Offices and to promoting research findings that improve highway safety.

WHERE DO THE RESEARCH IDEAS ORIGINATE?

Anyone can write or contribute to preparing a problem statement. However, problem statements must be endorsed by a State Highway Safety Office, GHSA Executive Board members, a GHSA Committee, or NHTSA to be eligible for consideration. Submitters are strongly encouraged to do a literature search before submitting to ensure the problem hasn't been solved or isn't being studied already. An annual request for problem statements will be posted on www.trb.org/BTSCRP.

WHO SELECTS THE RESEARCH TOPICS?

NHTSA and TRB staff will review the submitted research problem statements and provide feedback to the Governing Board. The Governing Board gives final approval of the annual research projects. Emphasis is placed on selecting projects that will result in applied research products that highway safety stakeholders will be able to use immediately upon the completion of the research.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER RESEARCH TOPICS ARE SELECTED?

TRB follows a cooperative research process that it has used successfully in other programs. First, TRB forms a project panel of diverse 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 proposal (RFP). The RFP is then prepared and posted on www.trb.org/BTSCRP. Those previously expressing interest via the BTSCRP website are notified immediately. The weekly TRB E-Newsletter provides a notice also. Individuals and agencies then respond to the RFP by submitting proposals to conduct the research. The project panel reviews the proposals and selects the contractor to conduct the research. The panel then provides technical guidance and reviews deliverables throughout the life of the project.

HOW LARGE ARE PROJECT PANELS AND WHO SERVES ON THEM?

A project panel usually consists of six to eight people from the traffic safety community, academia, state and local governments, and includes federal government liaisons. TRB selects panel members based on 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 BTSCRP PROJECT PANEL MEMBERS?

A modest time commitment is expected for project panel members. An initial two-day meeting focuses on developing an RFP. A follow-up one-day meeting allows members to discuss their proposal evaluation and select the contractor for the project. An interim one-day meeting may be held during the research phase to bring the project panel together with the research contractor. The remaining work is accomplished remotely and consists of reviewing and providing written comments on draft work products and other deliverables.

ARE PROJECT PANEL MEMBERS COMPENSATED?

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

HOW CAN I OBTAIN BTSCRP PRODUCTS?

All BTSCRP products are available on the BTSCRP website at www.trb.org/BTSCRP.



HOW CAN I BECOME INVOLVED IN BTSCRCP?

There are four ways to become involved in BTSCRCP:

(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 BTSCRCP website at www.trb.org/BTSCRCP. Problem statements are typically due in February of each year. The BTSCRCP Governing Board meets in June to select projects for 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 that provides technical guidance and counsel throughout the life of the project.

TRB normally solicits panel nominations in July 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 a BTSCRCP nomination form, which can be downloaded from the BTSCRCP website at www.trb.org/BTSCRCP.

(3) Prepare a proposal to conduct research.

In response to BTSCRCP RFPs, any interested individual, agency, 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 BTSCRCP website at www.trb.org/BTSCRCP.

(4) Use the research results.

BTSCRCP products are developed in response to problems faced by traffic safety stakeholders. When faced with a traffic safety issue, use BTSCRCP products for guidance.

SCOPE OF BTSCRCP PROJECTS

BTSCRCP can address any behavioral issue faced by traffic safety stakeholders. Particular emphasis areas are alcohol-impaired driving, autonomous vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians, child passenger safety, distracted driving, drowsy driving, drug-impaired driving, law enforcement, mature drivers, motorcyclist safety, seat belts, speed and red light cameras, speeding and aggressive driving, teen driver safety, and traffic records.

BTSCRCP will produce a series of research products that traffic safety stakeholders, government agencies, and other interested parties can consult when addressing traffic safety issues.

TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

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