

Success in driving deliberate research funding

TRB Blue Ribbon Committee Success Story – the tale of TRB ANB25 (Highway Safety Performance)

About ANB25

Our Scope

This Committee deals with the advancement, integration and institutionalization of quantitative highway safety information to support transportation decision-making at all levels. The function of this committee is to foster the continual development, validation and increased knowledge of science-based methods, procedures and measures that will increase the safety of the nation's highways and roadways.

Our charge & the research connection

Our Charge

- Quantitative highway safety information to support transportation decision making
 - Let's quantify! (just to list a few)
 - What are impacts of design elements, treatments, or infrastructure changes on safety performance?
 - Methods – how do we do the analysis? How do we address gaps that impact reliability?
 - Tools – how do we help support our AASHTO partner with advancements for the AASHTO Highway Safety Manual?
- So key to progress is getting the right research funded at the right time so it can drive the change we need

Our approach

- We are part of a larger team – we have major partners
 - FHWA Office of Safety
 - Why? They fund projects as well. They are playing a leading role in requirements for performance, funding programs for safety investments at the state level (HSIP), they make policies, and they also develop and maintain guidelines and tools.
 - AASHTO and State DOTs
 - Why? NCHRP research (our focus for the most part) is funded by the states and intended to help support the states & AASHTO is the owner of the HSM (our toolbox for safety performance analysis in our profession)
 - Committee members and friends:
 - Academia
 - Research
 - Agency (local, state, federal)
 - Private sector

Together we
can do so
much more

- TRB committee membership
 - Deliberate effort to include our major partners
- AASHTO HSM Steering Committee
 - Deliberate effort to include TRB ANB25 leadership
- FHWA Office of Safety
 - Engaging AASHTO, State agency staff, and other professionals
 - Managing a HSM Pooled Fund with membership from many state DOTs.

And then the big one:

- Deliberate **communication efforts across**
 - FHWA
 - AASHTO Safety Lead (Kelly Hardy)
 - AASHTO Steering Committee for the HSM
 - TRB ANB25 Leadership
- Work with our partners to develop a **Strategic Research Plan**

Our process

1. **Communicate** across our partners – coordinate, respect roles, and be transparent about priorities.
2. **Generate ideas** at ANB25 annual and midyear meeting
 - Prepare research idea form (just the idea and a short paragraph) for AASHTO
 - Score/prioritize (ANB25 used to do this but now the AASHTO subcommittee does it – which is very helpful)
 - Review the prioritized list
 - Classify it – is it a potential NCHRP RNS, a FHWA project, etc. or could it be overlapping with other ongoing or recently completed projects -> sort that out first!
 - Identify leads and support team members for NCHRP RNS

Our process (continued)

3. **Develop the Research Needs Statement(s)**
 1. Write the RNS and engage your state DOT partners
 2. Include your other partners in the review
 3. Do a final rework of the RNS to:
 - Make it sound less research
 - To check whether
 - it is indeed appropriate for NCHRP – maybe it needs rework, refocus
 - The budget is reasonable
 - The statement is easy to follow
 - The title is reflecting what the research is about
 - The RNS meets all the requirements
 - Make it marketable – we have to sell the idea to increase the likelihood of funding
4. **Submit the RNS:** Work with the State DOT partner(s) to get it submitted
5. **Follow-up:** State DOT partner(s) connect with other state DOTs to market the research idea and need for funding and the user needs to implement the research

Questions?

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