**NCHRP SYNTHESIS TOPIC STATEMENT OUTLINE**

***NCHRP Synthesis Topic Statements Are Due February 16, 2024***

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| The following factors are considered in the selection process for synthesis topics:* The objective of the scope of work is to document current highway practice in state departments of transportation (DOTs);
* The synthesis documents current practice, not *best* practice; it is not a research project or a guidebook;
* The topic addresses an area of practice that is widespread and of general interest to state DOTs;
* The topic should be timely and critical for expediting delivery, improving the quality, or lowering the cost of highway programs; and
* The scope of work aligns with a $55,000 budget and an 11-month turnaround.
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**Please use the outline below for creating your synthesis topic statement. You do not need to copy the outline headings into your statement.**

**Upload your topic statement in a Word document to the NCHRP Synthesis Topic Submission Portal:** [**https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7467719/NCHRP-Synthesis-Topic-Submission-56-Series**](https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7467719/NCHRP-Synthesis-Topic-Submission-56-Series)

1. **Topic Title**
* Communicate what the synthesis is about in as few words as possible. Example: *Practices for Controlling Tunnel Leaks*.
1. **Background**
* One or two paragraphs providing a description of the topic to be studied. This section gives context for the proposed topic.
* A synthesis is appropriate when most state DOTs engage in the practice, but they do it differently (i.e., there are no standard guidelines or regulations).
1. **Synthesis Objective**
* One paragraph.
* Statement of specific state DOT practices the synthesis will document Example: The objective of this synthesis is to document current state DOT practices for reactive winter maintenance.
1. **Information To Be Gathered**
* A bulleted list is recommended.
* Examples of important aspects of the practice to be documented.
* The information to be gathered should be factual and not require the opinion of a survey recipient.
* A synthesis is suitable for documenting the *what’s* and *how’s* of practice, not the *why’s*.
1. **How the Information Will Gathered**

The approach for gathering information is standard for all syntheses. The suggested language for the synthesis statement is as follows:

Information will be gathered through a literature review, a survey of state DOTs, and follow-up interviews with selected DOTs for the development of case examples. Information gaps and suggestions for research to address those gaps will be identified.

1. **Information Sources (Partial)**
* A comprehensive literature search is not required for a synthesis statement. Include any literature references you want to make sure will be seen by the panel and the principal investigator should the topic be selected.
* Literature searches can be conducted on TRID (<http://trid.trb.org>), which includes the Research in Progress database (<http://rip.trb.org/>)

***Please submit the synthesis topic statement by February 16, 2024:*** [**https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7467719/NCHRP-Synthesis-Topic-Submission-56-Series**](https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7467719/NCHRP-Synthesis-Topic-Submission-56-Series)

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