### **NCHRP**

National Cooperative Highway Research Program

## RESEARCH RESULTS DIGEST

December 1994 Number 203

These Digests are issued in the interest of providing an early awareness of the research results emanating from projects in the NCHRP. By making these results known as they are developed, it is hoped that the potential users of the research findings will be encouraged toward their early implementation in operating practices. Persons wanting to pursue the project subject matter in greater depth may do so through contact with the Cooperative Research Programs Staff, Transportation Research Board, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418.

Responsible Staff Engineer: Scott A. Sabol

# Continuing Project to Synthesize Information on Highway Problems

A staff digest of the progress and status of NCHRP Project 20-5, "Synthesis of Information Related to Highway Problems," for which the Transportation Research Board is the agency conducting the research. The Principal Investigators responsible for the project are Sally D. Liff, Manager, Synthesis Studies; Stephen F. Maher, P.E., and Donna L. Vlasak, Senior Program Officers, serving under the Studies and Information Services Division of the Board.

#### INTRODUCTION

Administrators, practicing engineers, and researchers continually face highway problems on which much information already exists, either in documented form or in terms of undocumented experience and practice. Unfortunately, this information is often fragmented, scattered, and underevaluated. Often it is unknown to the person normally responsible for making decisions related to the topic. As a consequence, full knowledge of what has been learned about a problem is frequently not brought to bear on its solution. Costly research findings may go unused, valuable experience may be overlooked, and due consideration may not be given to recommended practices for solving or alleviating the problem.

There exists a vast storehouse of information relating to nearly every subject of concern to highway administrators and engineers. Much of it resulted from research and much from successful application of the ideas of practitioners faced with problems in their day-to-day work. Because there has been no systematic means for bringing such useful information together and making it available to the entire highway community, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials has, through the mechanism of the National Cooperative Highway Research Program, authorized the Transportation Research Board to undertake a continuing study, NCHRP Project 20-5, "Synthesis of Information Related to Highway Problems." This study is intended to search out and synthesize useful knowledge from all possible sources and to prepare documented reports on current practices in the subject areas of concern. Reports from this endeavor constitute an NCHRP report series, Synthesis of Highway Practice, that collects and assembles the various forms of information into single concise documents pertaining to specific highway problems or sets of closely related problems.

### THE SYNTHESIS PROGRAM

This synthesis series attempts to report on the various practices, making specific recommendations where appropriate but without the detailed directions usually found in handbooks or design manuals. Nonetheless, these documents can serve similar purposes, for each is a compendium of the best knowledge available on those measures found to be the most successful in resolving specific problems. The extent to which they are used in this fashion will be tempered by the breadth of the user's knowledge in the particular problem area.

Suggestions for synthesis topics may be sent to the NCHRP Program Director at any time (see address on back). Topics suggested must be accompanied by a brief scope statement or discussion of the problem (a paragraph or two). Suggestions for updates of published syntheses are also welcome.

Interested in writing a synthesis? For details, contact Sally D. Liff, Stephen F. Maher, P.E., or Donna L. Vlasak at 202-334-3244 or 3245.

To develop these syntheses in a comprehensive manner and to ensure inclusion of significant knowledge, the Transportation Research Board analyzes available information assembled from numerous sources, including state highway and transportation departments. A panel of experts in the subject area is established to guide the researchers in organizing and evaluating the data collected on each topic and to review the synthesis report.

For each topic the project objectives are: (1) to locate and assemble documented information; (2) to learn what practice has been used for solving or alleviating the problems; (3) to identify all ongoing research; (4) to learn what problems remain largely unsolved; (5) to organize, evaluate, and document the useful information that is acquired; (6) to evaluate the effectiveness of the synthesis after it has been in the hands of its users for a period of time.

Each synthesis is an immediately useful document that records practices that were acceptable within the limitations of the knowledge available at the time of its preparation. As the processes of advancement continue, new knowledge can be expected to be added to that which is now at hand; eventually the synthesis may need to be updated or redone. The readers and users of the syntheses are in the best position to know when this has occurred. Whenever you believe that a synthesis should be updated, it would be appreciated if you would write to TRB (address on back) and let us know.

### Studies in Progress

Work is currently under way on the topics listed in Table 1. Questions on these topics should be addressed to the principal project investigators, Sally D. Liff, Stephen F. Maher, P.E., or Donna L. Vlasak, who can be reached at (202) 334-3244 or 3245.

### Submission and Selection of Topics

One part of the project procedures that is not widely understood is the process for submission and selection of topics. NCHRP Project Committee SP20-5 meets each year to select topics for study using funds from the upcoming fiscal year. The membership of this committee is given in Table 2. Current funding allows for initiation of about 12 to 14 syntheses per year. This number, plus some alternative topics, are selected by the committee at the annual project meeting.

The following factors are considered in the selection process for synthesis topics:

- The problem should be widespread enough to generate broad interest in the synthesis.
- The problem should be timely and critical with respect to economic impact, safety, or social impact.
- The problem is appropriate if current practice is nonuniform or inconsistent from agency to agency, or if the validity of some practices appears to be questionable.
- The quality and quantity of useful available information should indicate a need to organize and compress that which has already been learned and written on the topic.
- The topic should not be one where ongoing research or other activities in progress might be expected to render the synthesis obsolete shortly after completion.

Each year many more topics are suggested for the committee's consideration than can be programmed for study in Project 20-5. Nevertheless, the continued success of this project depends on a constant supply of worthy synthesis topics. The interest of those who have recommended topics is sincerely appreciated, and they are urged to continue. Candidate topics are suggested by members of the committee and by a variety of other sources, including state highway and transportation department personnel, FHWA, and AASHTO and TRB committees.

### Available Publications

The Syntheses of Highway Practice that have been completed under this project are listed in Table 3. Two Research Results Digests on topics studied under the project are also listed. Copies of these Syntheses and Digests can be obtained from the Publications Office, Transportation Research Board, 2101 Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418 or by calling (202) 334-3214.

### Index of Topic Subjects

Table 4 is an index to published syntheses and topics under study.

#### Conduct of the Studies

Throughout the year, following the project committee's selection of topics, studies are initiated in the order of priority assigned by the committee. A panel consisting of practitioners and researchers is formed for each topic. At its first meeting, this topic panel thoroughly discusses the topic, refines the scope, suggests sources of information, and identifies and discusses potential topic consultants.

Following this meeting, an agreement is negotiated with a consultant to gather information on the topic, synthesize it, and draft a report. Typically, the agreement covers about 50 workdays over a period of about one year. Information gathering and preparation of the first draft of the synthesis report usually take from 6 to 9 months. This draft is reviewed by the topic panel with the consultant at the second panel meeting. A revised draft is then prepared by the author and reviewed by the topic panel. Subsequent drafts and meetings are scheduled if needed, although this rarely occurs.

After the topic panel is substantially satisfied with the report, a final draft is sent to the members of NCHRP Project Committee SP20-5 for their approval. At the same time, members of the topic panel have their last chance to review the report, which is usually published as an NCHRP Synthesis of Highway Practice.

SYNTHESIS TOPICS FOR THE FY 1995 PROGRAM WILL BE SELECTED IN 1995

### Table 1 TOPICS BEING STUDIED

No.	Title	No.	Title
19-22	Status and Application of GPS Satellite Positioning for	25-06	Collecting and Managing Cost Data for Bridge Management
	Departments of Transportation		Systems
22-11	Photographic Enforcement of Traffic Laws	25-07	Pavement Subsurface Drainage Systems
22-12	Truck Operating Characteristics	25-09	Waterproofing Membranes for Bridge Decks
	Effects of Highway Bypasses on Rural Communities and	25-10	
	Small Urban Areas	25-11	Toll Plaza Design
23-05	Performance-Related Specifications	25-12	
	Changeable Message Signs	25-13	Consideration of the 15 Factors of the Metropolitan
	Reduced Visibility on the Highway		Planning Process
	Effective Use of Park-and-Ride Facilities	25-14	
24-01	Resolution of Disputes to Avoid Construction Claims	25-15	Productivity Measurements within Departments of
	Determinination of Contract Time for Highway Construction		Transportation
	Projects	25-16	Dynamic Effects of Pile Installations on Adjacent Structures
24-05	Pavement Management Methodologies to Select Projects	25-21	
	and Recommend Preservation Treatments	26-01	
24-07	Pavement Markings	26-02	Variability in Highway Pavement Construction
24-08	Longitudinal Occupancy of Limited/Controlled Access Right-		Methods for Household Travel Surveys
	of-Way by Utilities		Highway-Rail Crossing Surfaces
24-10	Asphalt Surface Treatments and Thin Overlays		Relationship Between Pavement Surface Texture and
	Implementation of Technology from Abroad		Highway Traffic Noise
	Effects of Highway Widening Improvements on Urban and	26-06	Land Development Regulations that Promote Access
	Suburban Areas		Management
25-01	Applications of 3D and 4D Visual Modeling for	26-07	Application of Full-Scale Accelerated Pavement Testing
	Transportation Systems		Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) for Evaluating
25-02	Freight Transportation Planning in the Public Sector		Subsurface Conditions for Transportation Facilities
	Left Turn Treatments at Intersections	26-09	Evaluation of Effectiveness and Impact of Training
25-04	Guardrail and Median Barrier Crashworthiness		Settlement of Bridge Approaches

### Table 2 NCHRP PROJECT COMMITTEE SP20-5

### Chairman Jon P. Underwood Texas Department of Transportation

Texas Department of Transportation		
Kenneth C. Afferton New Jersey Department of Transportation	William A. Weseman Federal Highway Administration	
Robert N. Bothman The HELP Program	J. Richard Young, Jr. Mississippi Department of Transportation	
John J. Henry Pennsylvania Transportation Institute	Liaisons	
Gloria J. Jeff Federal Highway Administration	Richard A. McComb (Liaison) Federal Highway Administration	
Fort C Shirley	Robert F. Snicher (Liaison)	

Earl C. Shirley

California Department of
Transportation (Retired)

Robert E. Spicher (Liaison)
Transportation Research Board

### Table 3

**COMPLETED SYNTHESES** No. Title, Pages, Price No. Title, Pages, Price

- 1. Traffic Control for Freeway Maintenance (1969) 47 pp., \$2.20
- 2. Bridge Approach Design and Construction Practices (1969) 30 pp. (microfiche)
- Traffic-Safe and Hydraulically Efficient Drainage Practice (1969) 38 pp. (microfiche)\*
- Concrete Bridge Deck Durability (1970) 28 pp. (microfiche)\* (supplemented by Synthesis 57)

Scour at Bridge Waterways (1970) 37 pp. (microfiche)\*
Principles of Project Scheduling and Monitoring (1970) 43 pp. (microfiche)\*

Motorist Aid Systems (1971) 28 pp., \$2.40 Construction of Embankments (1971) 38 pp. (microfiche)\*

- 9. Pavement Rehabilitation-Materials and Techniques (1972) 41 pp. (out of print)
- Recruiting, Training, and Retaining Maintenance and Equipment Personnel (1972) 35 pp. (microfiche)\*
- Development of Management Capability (1972) 50 pp. (out of print)
- Telecommunications Systems for Highway Administration and Operations (1972) 39 pp., \$2.80 (superseded by Synthesis 165)

- 13. Radio Spectrum Frequency Management (1972) 32 pp., \$2.80
  14. Skid Resistance (1972) 66 pp. (microfiche)\*
  15. Statewide Transportation Planning—Needs and Requirements (1973) 41 pp. (microfiche)\* (superseded by Synthesis 95)
- Continuously Reinforced Concrete Pavement (1973) 23 pp., \$2.80
- Pavement Traffic Marking—Materials and Application A Serviceability (1973) 44 pp., \$3.60 (superseded by Synthesis 138)
- 18. Erosion Control on Highway Construction (1973) 52 pp. (microfiche)\*
  19. Design, Construction, and Maintenance of PCC Pavement Joints (1973) 40 pp. (out of print)

Rest Areas (1973) 38 pp., \$3.60

21. Highway Location Reference Methods (1974) 30 pp., \$3.20

- 22. Maintenance Management of Traffic Signal Equipment and Systems (1974) 41 pp. (microfiche)\* (superseded by Synthesis 114) Getting Research Findings Into Practice (1974) 24 pp., \$3.20
- Minimizing Deicing Chemical Use (1974) 58 pp. (microfiche)\*
  Reconditioning High-Volume Freeways in Urban Areas (1974) 56 pp., 25. \$4.00
- Roadway Design in Seasonal Frost Areas (1975) 104 pp. (microfiche)\*
- PCC Pavements for Low-Volume Roads and City Streets (1975) 31 pp.

- Partial-Lane Pavement Widening (1975) 30 pp., \$3.20 Treatment of Soft Foundations for Embankments (1975) 25 pp., \$3.20 (supplemented by Synthesis 147)
- Bituminous Emulsions for Highway Pavements (1975) 76 pp. (microfiche)\*

31. Highway Tunnel Operations (1975) 29 pp., \$3.20 32. Effects of Studded Tires (1975) 46 pp., \$4.00

- 33. Acquisition and Use of Geotechnical Information (1976) 40 pp., \$4.00
- 34. Policies for Accommodation of Utilities on Highway Rights of Way (1976) 22 pp. (microfiche) 35. Design and Control of Freeway Off-Ramp Terminals (1976) 61 pp., \$4.40
- Instrumentation and Equipment for Testing Highway Materials, Products, and Performance (1976) 70 pp., \$4.80
- Lime-Fly Ash-Stabilized Bases and Subbases (1976) 66 pp. (microfiche)\*
- Statistically Oriented End-Result Specifications (1976) 40 pp., \$4.00 Transportation Requirements for the Handicapped, Elderly, and Economically Disadvantaged (1976) 54 pp. (out of print)
- Staffing and Management for Social, Economic, and Environmental Impact Assessments (1977) 43 pp., \$4.00 Bridge Bearings (1977) 62 pp. (microfiche)\*
- 42. Design of Pile Foundations (1977) 68 pp., \$4.80
- Energy Effects, Efficiencies, and Prospects for Various Modes of Transportation (1977) 57 pp., \$4.80 (supplemented by Synthesis 121)
- Consolidation of Concrete for Pavements, Bridge Decks, and Overlays (1977) 61 pp., \$4.80
- 45. Rapid-Setting Materials for Patching of Concrete (1977) 13 pp. (out of print
- Recording and Reporting Methods for Highway Maintenance Expenditures (1977) 35 pp., \$3.60

- Effect of Weather on Highway Construction (1978) 29 pp., \$3.20
- 48 Priority Programming and Project Selection (1978) 31 pp. (out of print)
- Open-Graded Friction Courses for Highways (1978) 50 pp., \$4.00 49.
- Durability of Drainage Pipe (1978) 37 pp. (microfiche)\* 50.
- 51.
- Construction Contract Staffing (1978) 62 pp., \$6.00

  Management and Selection Systems for Highway Maintenance
  Equipment (1978) 17 pp., \$4.40 52.
- 53. Precast Concrete Elements for Transportation Facilities (1978) 48 pp., \$5.60
- 54. Recycling Materials for Highways (1978) 53 pp. (microfiche)\*
- Storage and Retrieval Systems for Highway and Transportation Data 55. (1978) 30 pp., \$4.80
- Joint-Related Distress in PCC Pavement-Cause, Prevention, and 56.
- Rehabilitation (1979) 36 pp., \$5.20 Durability of Concrete Bridge Decks (1979) 61 pp. (microfiche)\* (supplements Synthesis 4)
- Consequences of Deferred Maintenance (1979) 24 pp., \$4.40
- 59. Relationship of Asphalt Cement Properties to Pavement Durability
- (1979) 43 pp., \$5.60
  Failure and Repair of Continuously Reinforced Concrete Pavement (1979) 42 pp., \$5.60
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- Quality Assurance (1979) 42 pp., \$5.60 Glare Screen Guidelines (1979) 17 pp., \$4.40 66.
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- 72. Transportation Needs Studies and Financial Constraints (1980) 54 pp., \$6.40
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- 74. State Transit-Management Assistance to Local Communities (1980) 34 pp., \$6.00 Transit Boards-Composition, Roles, and Procedures (1981) 24 pp., \$6.20
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- 78. Value Engineering in Preconstruction and Construction (1981) 23 pp., \$6.40
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- Highway Accident Analysis Systems (1982) 69 pp., \$7.60 Minimizing Reflection Cracking of Pavement Overlays (1982) 38 pp., \$6.80

<sup>\*</sup>These syntheses are available from TRB in microfiche form only at a cost of \$10.00 each.

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175. Moisture Damage in Asphalt Concrete (1991) 91 pp., \$10.00

(1979) 2 pp., \$1.00

106. Use of Waste Materials in Highway Construction and Maintenance

\$10.40

(1987) 20 pp., \$6.80

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Safe Conduct of Traffic Through Highway Construction and

133. Integrated Highway Information Systems (1987) 31 pp., \$7.60

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Research Results Digests (RRD)

#### Table 3 (continued)

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- 178.
- Truck Escape Ramps (1992) 56 pp., \$9.00 Latex-Modified Concretes and Mortars (1992) 58 pp., \$9.00 179.
- Performance Characteristics of Open-Graded Friction Courses (1992) 44 pp., \$8.00 (supplements Synthesis 49)
  In-Service Experience with Traffic Noise Barriers (1992) 61 pp., \$9.00
- 181.
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- 186.
- Rapid Test Methods for Asphalt Concrete and Portland Cement 187. Concrete (1993) 47 pp., \$10.00
- Management Training and Development Programs (1993) 56 pp., \$15.00
- State Highway Pavement Design Practices (1993) 45 pp., \$11.00
- Criteria for Qualifying Contractors for Bidding Purposes (1994) 40 pp.,
- Use of Rumble Strips to Enhance Safety (1993) 74 pp., \$19.00
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- Accident Data Quality (1993) 53 pp., \$12.00 Hot In-Place Recycling of Asphalt Concrete (1994) 69 pp., \$16.00 193.
- 194. Electronic Toll and Traffic Management (ETTM) Systems (1993) 64 pp., \$15.00 Use of Warranties in Road Construction (1994) 60 pp., \$15.00
- 195.
- Highway Maintenance Procedures Dealing with Hazardous Materials Incidents (1994) 60 pp., \$15.00
- Corridor Preservation (1994) 43 pp., \$11.00 Uses of Recycled Rubber Tires in Highways (1994) 162 pp., \$23.00 198
- Recycling and Use of Waste Materials and By-Products in Highway 199. Construction (1994) 84 pp., \$20.00
- Underwater Bridge Maintenance and Repair (1994) 54 pp., \$16.00
- Multimodal Evaluation in Passenger Transportation (1994) 84 pp., 201. \$19.00
- 202. Severity Indices for Roadside Features (1994) 54 pp., \$12.00
- 203. Current Practices in Determining Pavement Condition (1994) 57 pp., \$16.00
- Portland Cement Concrete Resurfacing (1994) 67 pp., \$15.00 204.
- Performance and Operational Experience of Crash Cushions (1994) (In
- press)
  Highway Tort Liability Management Programs (1994) 40 pp., \$11.00 206.
- Managing Roadway Snow and Ice Control Operations (1994) (In press)
- Development and Implementation of Traffic Control Plans for Highway Work Żones (1994) (In press)
- Sealers for Portland Cement Concrete Highway Facilities (1994) (In 209.
- Road Pricing for Congestion Management: A Survey of International Practice (1994) (In press)
- Design, Construction, and Maintenance of PCC Pavement Joints (1995) (In press)

<sup>\*</sup>These syntheses are available from TRB in microfiche form only at a cost of \$10.00 each.

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<sup>\*</sup>Simple numbers represent published syntheses; hyphenated numbers represent studies in progress.

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