

NCHRP Project 20-05 Synthesis Topic 48-15
How Transportation Agencies Assess the Value of Added Capacity Highway Projects versus Other Modal Projects and Strategies

Agency Name

Case Example Interview

Agency Contact Name, Agency Contact Email Address, Agency Contact Phone Number

Impetus

Your response to the survey indicated that you assessed highway capacity projects against *insert other modal projects and strategies based on survey responses* in *the Plan, Corridor and Subarea Plans/Studies, and/or STIP/TIP*. Do you intend to expand the types of projects that are evaluated against highway capacity initiatives (e.g., public transportation, freight, etc.) in either Corridor and Subarea Plans/Studies or the STIP?

Difficulties

What difficulties did you encounter in assessing highway capacity projects against *insert other modal projects and strategies based on survey responses* in *the Plan, Corridor and Subarea Plans/Studies, and/or STIP/TIP*?

State Legislation

Is there any state legislation or executive order that limits your ability to consider using funds for certain types of transportation improvements? Put another way, are there restrictions on what type of projects can be funded based on programmatic eligibility (the “color of money” issue in which funds are dedicated to a particular mode)?

Federal Performance Management Requirements

What impacts (if any) do you feel the performance management requirements first included in the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act and carried over into the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act will have on assessing the benefits of projects across modes? For example, how does the need to set targets for safety, pavement and bridge conditions, and system performance impact the ability to evaluate and compare different types of transportation improvement strategies? Please consider and describe both positive and negative impacts.

Highway Capacity as a Strategy

Some transportation agencies are placing a greater amount of scrutiny on highway capacity projects than in the past. Would you say this is true of your agency? Why or why not? Please note that this NCHRP Synthesis is not meant to determine the value of highway capacity projects versus other modal projects or strategies; just to determine whether or not any evaluation of benefits is occurring and, if so, how.

Needs

Based on your experience with assessing highway capacity expansion projects against other types of projects, what would be beneficial to you moving forward? Are there any specific research activities that you feel should be undertaken? Is there some obstacle that makes expanding that assessment particularly difficult? Are there any particular tools that would assist you in refining or improving your current methods?

Other

Is there anything else you think should be considered with respect to evaluating added capacity highway projects versus other modal projects and strategies?

Date Completed - please note the date the interview took place.