

## Planning for More Reliable Travel Times

*Requirements, actions, and performance-based planning options to improve non-recurring congestion*

Road users—from long-distance travelers and truckers to local businesses and commuters—need and want a more reliable transportation network that will enable them to arrive on time with more certainty. To accomplish this goal, state and local departments of transportation (DOTs) need a sound way to plan for better travel-time reliability.

Elements of this planning should include: 1) a clear understanding of the needs and requirements of road users, including freight carriers; 2) performance-based planning tools that include goals, performance measures, and targets; 3) the role of changing demographics, economics, and climate change; 4) technological advances in operations; and 5) the critical roles played in managing and operating a reliable highway network.

## The Solution

Using the elements outlined above as a starting point, recent research from the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2) has identified a full range of actions DOTs can take to improve travel-time reliability. Different approaches to reduce non-recurring congestion have been categorized according to different levels of effectiveness, and each potential action has been graded according to a cost range. The report will describe one possible method for determining the economic value of improvements in reliability. Overall, this information may have direct use in efforts to establish the benefits of actions to improve the consistency of travel times and could also be used in benefit-cost calculations. The report will also address how road pricing can significantly improve travel-time reliability.

## How can you learn more?

For more information, contact William Hyman at TRB, at [bhyman@nas.edu](mailto:bhyman@nas.edu).

### About SHRP2 Implementation



The second Strategic Highway Research Program is a national partnership of key transportation organizations: the Federal Highway Administration, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and the Transportation Research Board. Together, these partners conduct research and deploy products that will help the transportation community enhance the productivity, boost the efficiency, increase the safety, and improve the reliability of the Nation's highway system.

### Strategic Highway Research Program

### Planning Cost-Effective Actions to Improve Travel-Time Reliability

#### FOCUS AREA: Reliability (L11)

The report will offer a framework for planning improvements in travel-time reliability, including alternative scenarios, a concept of operation, an examination of the role of pricing, other strategies to improve reliability, and exploration of a new method for valuing reliability.