

Accelerating solutions for highway safety, renewal, reliability, and capacity

Second-Year Research Program Begins with Release of 7 New Requests for Proposals

Proposals are due on May 3rd in response to the RFPs released this month for 5 Renewal projects, one Reliability project, and one Capacity project. Up to \$15.75 million is budgeted for the multi-phase projects in those three focus areas. The objectives and expected products of these projects are described in [the RFPs](#). Two other projects scheduled for release in March were reprogrammed for the second cycle in 2007. Reliability project L11, Evaluating Alternative Traffic Operations Strategies, and Safety project S03, Acquisition of Roadway Information Measurement Van, were deferred until a later cycle as Technical Coordinating Committees continue to refine the project scopes as they relate to other research. Full project descriptions are included in the research plan for each focus area, which can be accessed from the SHRP 2 [home page](#).

The Expert Task Group for Capacity project C03, Interactions between Transportation Capacity, Economic Systems, and Land Use and Integrating Economic Considerations in Project Development, which is also scheduled for release in July, has re-scoped the project and redefined the expected products. The [Capacity Research Plan](#) provides the updated scope.

Contractor Expression of Interest Offers New Opportunity for Researchers

Because of the size and complexity of many SHRP 2 projects, proposals are being submitted by teams of researchers who pool their expertise and resources. A new feature on the SHRP 2 Web site allows research contractors to indicate their interest in collaborating with others and to [list](#) research focus areas, qualifications, facilities, and other information about their organizations. The list is not verified or used by SHRP 2 in any way, but is intended to help proposers build research teams with appropriate expertise.

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Contract Awards Announced for First-Year Research

Contracts have been awarded to conduct research for the first 11 projects in the SHRP 2 research plan. Strong teams with depth of expertise have been assembled by the principal investigators, whose contracting agencies are shown in the table below.

Focus Area	No.	Project Title	Lead Contractors	\$ million
	S01	Development of Analysis Methods Using Recent Data (multiple awards)	University of Minnesota University of Michigan University of North Carolina Iowa State University Pennsylvania State University	\$1.5 (total)
	S05	Design of the In-Vehicle Driving Behavior and Crash Risk Study	(contract pending)	\$3.0
	S09	Site-Based Video System Design and Development	University of Michigan	\$1.0
	R01	Encouraging Innovation in Locating and Characterizing Underground Utilities	Louisiana Tech University	\$0.3
	R06	High-Speed, Nondestructive Testing Procedures for Both Design Evaluation and Construction Inspection	Texas A & M	\$0.35
	R07	Performance Specifications for Rapid Highway Renewal	Trauner Consulting Services, Inc.	\$3.0
	R15	Strategies for Integrating Utility and Transportation Agency Priorities in Renewal Projects	ICF International	\$0.25
	L03	Analytic Procedures for Determining the Effects of Mitigation Measures	Cambridge Systematics, Inc.	\$1.75
	L06	Institutional Architectures for Advanced Operations Strategies	PB Consult, Inc.	\$1.0
	C01	A Framework for Collaborative Decision Making on Additions to Highway Capacity	ICF International	\$2.6
	C02	System-Based Performance Measurement Framework for Highway Capacity Decision Making	Cambridge Systematics, Inc.	\$0.825
		TOTAL		\$15.575

Mapping out SHRP 2 International Activities

Early in the program, the SHRP 2 Oversight Committee identified three mechanisms by which SHRP 2 could collaborate with the international research community. These include individual, cooperative, and collaborative studies. In the first instance, researchers from other countries can respond independently to SHRP 2 requests for proposals or team up with US-based researchers to develop proposals. The second mechanism affirms the global nature of SHRP 2 goals and encourages studies that are conducted independently but share data and information to benefit both efforts. The third mechanism envisions multinational studies with identical study designs, test protocols, and data definitions.

These formal arrangements are enhanced by other activities as opportunities arise. For example, an International Roundtable and reception held during the TRB Annual Meeting in January provided a venue for attendees from other countries to meet and share



information. In February, Derek Sweet (*seen at left*), who is on loan for a year from the Canadian Council of Deputy Ministers of Transport to facilitate international activities for SHRP 2, addressed the Deputy Minister's Engineering and Research Committee in Winnipeg, Canada. In March, Derek also made presentations to members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development /European Conference of Ministers of Transport Joint Transport Research Committee in Paris, and to the European Commission in Brussels.

New Staff Members

Three new staff members have joined SHRP 2 during this quarter, bringing us close to a full complement. James W. Bryant, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., brings his expertise in operations and construction and contract management to his position as senior program officer in the Renewal focus area. William A. Hyman, an economist with broad experience in resource allocation and asset management, joins the Reliability focus area as senior program officer. Noreen Stevenson, a National Academies veteran, brings her skills in project administration to SHRP 2 while pursuing a master's degree in computer information security.

SHRP 2 is administered by the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

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