NCHRP Process

Ray Derr, PE
Project Manager, NCHRP
Transportation Research Board
The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
NCHRP: AASHTO’s Research Program Since 1962

Responsive to state DOTs
- Sole source of funds (5.5% of State Planning & Research)
- Largest submitter of problem statements
- Select which projects to fund

Focus on applied research
- Shared issues, usually nationally

Contract research
- Oversight/guidance by expert panels
- Research by contractors
- Facilitation by staff

Partnership between AASHTO, FHWA, & TRB
Typical NCHRP Projects

- Recommended AASHTO Guides and Specifications
- Guides for practitioners
- Software products
- New or improved models/tools
- New or improved operations and services
- New or improved testing/evaluation techniques
- Fact finding (white papers)
Typical Project Process

• State DOTs, AASHTO Committees, & FHWA submit problem statements by **OCT 15**
  • Technical Committees cannot submit
  • Design Committee’s deadline is ~SEP 1
• NCHRP and FHWA staff review submittals by December
• State DOTs ballot on problems by February
• AASHTO Standing Committee on Research selects projects in March
• AASHTO Board of Directors approves program
Synthesis Project Process

• Anyone submits simple problem statements in February on website
• NCHRP 20-05 Panel selects ~12 projects
• NCHRP announces program and solicits nominations for panel members in May
• Prospective contractors submit letters of interest
Highway Quick Response Process

• AASHTO Highway Subcommittees submit simple problem statements (<= $100,000) before AASHTO Spring and Annual Meetings
  • Tech. Committees submit through SCOD
• Chairs of AASHTO Highway Subcommittees select during AASHTO Meeting
• Panel usually drawn from Subcommittee
• Panel usually requests a sole-source proposal
Future Quick Response Process
(Task Force Recommendations)

• Highway, Planning, Environment, Public Transportation funds pooled ($3M)
• Any Committee will be able to request projects
  • Urgent requests at any time
  • Non-urgent requests should be part of a plan that may include several projects
• Products should be publicly available, disseminated, and archived
• To be further developed in Aug. SCOR meeting
• Current processes will continue until a new one is developed