

Strategic Plan for the Committee on Environment and Sustainability

As approved by the Strategic Management Committee, September 22, 2018

Goal 1: Provide policy support to the AASHTO Board of Directors, Transportation Policy Forum, Councils, Committees, and Members

The Committee on Environment and Sustainability serves as a forum to review and comment on federal legislation, regulations, guidance and policies, develops proposed policy positions for the Transportation Policy Forum and Board approval, and provides support on issues of national importance through coordination between AASHTO Committees, State DOTs, and external stakeholders, as appropriate.

1.1 Develop and Recommend Policy Positions

Serve as the forum for development of environmental and project delivery policy recommendations.

Implementation Action:

- Identify the environmental challenges states are facing, including lack of consistent application of environmental requirements, and develop policy recommendations for Transportation Policy Forum and Board consideration on changes to existing federal laws, regulations, guidance and/or policies to address the state challenges

1.2 Member Awareness and Response to Proposed Federal Actions

Ensure members are aware of proposed changes to federal legislation, regulation, guidance, policies and processes and serve as mechanism for members to provide input on proposed changes.

Implementation Actions:

- Actively monitor and analyze proposed changes to federal environmental laws, regulations, guidance, policies and processes
- Notify members of the proposed changes and potential implications of the proposal
- Work with members to develop and submit comments on proposed changes
- Use weekly AASHTO newsletters and other platforms to distribute policy news

1.3 Internal and External Collaboration

Collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to share perspectives and seek solutions to existing and emerging challenges faced by members.

Implementation Actions:

- Collaborate with other AASHTO committees and councils on multidisciplinary challenges facing the states
- Collaborate with USDOT and its modal administrations, Federal regulatory agencies, TRB, and other associations and stakeholders to share perspectives and seek solutions to existing and emerging challenges faced by the states

Goal 2: Provide technical support to members to increase their capacity to efficiently and reliably deliver environmentally sound transportation programs and services

Through sharing successful practices and leveraging other AASHTO programs, the Committee serves as a mechanism to develop priority tools and resources. The Committee will encourage, recommend and support programs and innovations to streamline the environmental review and permitting processes, ensure inclusive community engagement, and promote resource stewardship through sustainable practices.

2.1 Facilitate Member Information Sharing and Issue Prioritization

- Sustain the diversity of committee and subcommittee membership to enrich discussions and ensure a broad variety of viewpoints are heard
- Provide various forums and facilitate member information peer exchange of successful practices, as well as current and emerging issues
- Collaborate with other AASHTO committees and councils on topics of mutual interest
- Assess state DOT technical assistance needs, prioritize needs and develop strategies to address priority needs
- Facilitate committee and subcommittee discussions regarding incorporating environmental sustainability into subcommittee activities

2.2 Leverage AASHTO Programs

Leverage various AASHTO programs to provide priority technical assistance needs, including the development and progressing of innovative processes and practices.

Implementation Actions:

- Represent the committee on the Center for Environmental Excellence (CEE) Technical Working Group to ensure tasks are aligned with priority needs of the committee
- Participate in CEE task advisory groups to guide Center services and products
- Oversee the Environmental Technical Assistance Program to provide needed priority services to the states
- Coordinate with the Resilient and Sustainable Transportation Systems Technical Assistance Program on topics of mutual interest

- Collaborate with USDOT and its modal administrations, Federal regulatory agencies, TRB, and other associations and stakeholders to leverage resources, tools and training to address existing and emerging challenges

2.3 Leverage Research Programs

Create a foundation of knowledge by monitoring national trends and circumstances and promoting practical and timely research on significant transportation-related environmental issues.

Implementation Actions:

- Leverage the Center for Environmental Excellence’s Transportation and Environmental Research Ideas database to identify needed research
- Develop research proposals for priority environmental research, and submit proposals to the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) and other appropriate research programs
- Coordinate with TRB committees to prevent duplication and maximize utility of research
- Encourage the application of new and innovative research findings and methods