

Strategic Plan for the Council on Highway and Streets

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

Goal 1: Technical Services

Provide world-class technical information and services to assist the member departments.

1.1 Technical Information Development and Delivery

Oversee the development and dissemination of standards, specifications, technical policies, technological advancements, and best practices.

Implementation Actions:

- Discuss and prioritize technical needs of the member departments at a national level.
- Provide strategic direction to the committees for the development of technical policies, procedures, and technical standards, as well as direction on modifications to or development of new technical service programs.
- Strive to balance streamlined reviews and decision-making with the promotion of collaborative input to technical documents.

Goal 2: Collaboration

Foster ongoing coordination and collaboration among the AASHTO councils and committees and with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

2.1 Encourage multi-modal and cross-discipline efforts.

Communicate and coordinate with other AASHTO committees, councils, and forums to ensure that cross-jurisdictional issues are addressed with input from appropriate stakeholders.

Implementation Actions:

- Establish appropriate coordination points with other AASHTO groups.
- Experiment with methods to allow for greater peer exchange and discussion on critical issues.

2.2 Promote communication and collaboration on technical and policy issues with FHWA.

Partner with FHWA staff to promote collaborative decision-making on national issues that affect the State DOTs.

Implementation Actions:

- Establish coordination points in specific subject areas with appropriate FHWA offices.
- Request periodic updates from FHWA on topics of concern to the Council.

- Work jointly to resolve differences.

Goal 3: Safety

Improve safety on the nation's transportation network.

3.1 Pursue strategies to continually improve transportation safety.

Promote transportation strategies to assist in cutting fatalities with a vision towards zero fatalities.

Implementation Actions:

- Set aside time at CHS meetings for members to discuss best practices and lessons learned based on strategies they used to address safety in their home states.
- Collaborate with the Committee on Safety (COS) to help states work with their local partners to reduce fatalities on local roads.
- Coordinate with the Councils on Active Transportation, Public Transportation, and Rail Transportation, and the Special Committee on Freight, to promote multi-modal safety on the surface transportation system.
- Provide input to the Special Committee on Research and Innovation and AASHTO Innovation Initiative (A.I.I.) in prioritizing research and use of technologies in addressing collision and fatality reduction.
- Work with the Committee on Safety, Council on Active Transportation, Committee on Transportation Communications, and AASHTO headquarters to support national transportation safety messages.
- Sponsor webinars and conduct meetings jointly with the Committee on Safety to discuss and sponsor research proposals and other activities to increase collaborative efforts to reduce injuries and fatalities.

Goal 4: Project Delivery

Promote efficiency and effectiveness in transportation project delivery.

4.1 Process streamlining

Support accelerated project delivery by contributing to environmental streamlining efforts and promoting agency best practices for expediting the design, review, construction, and inspection of high-quality transportation projects.

Implementation Actions:

- Continue efforts to promote environmental streamlining through Council and member department involvement and collaboration with other committees and councils.

- Provide a forum to review, discuss, and support the development of policies and the implementation of research to accelerate the project delivery process.
- Task all appropriate committees to ensure they promote collaborative best practices identified for accelerating project delivery.
- Work with the Committee on Performance-Based Management and the Task Force on Project Delivery to address cross-cutting issues.

Goal 5: Mobility

Improve mobility on the nation’s transportation network.

5.1 Assist in the integration of advanced technologies, enhanced operations, and added capacity.

Implementation Actions:

- Provide guidance on innovative methods for strategically increasing physical and operational capacity to maximize efficient operations and performance of the national transportation network.
- Promote innovative operations to improve system performance.
- Coordinate with the National Operations Center of Excellence to facilitate broad implementation of best practices.

5.2 Support improvements to freight mobility

Ensure efficient and effective freight movement by supporting the improvement of the national freight network to keep America competitive in the global economy.

Implementation Actions:

- Coordinate with the Special Committee on Freight and other AASHTO groups to assist in sharing information, promoting best practices, and advancing appropriate policies to improve freight mobility across the country.
- Support and collaborate with AASHTO committees and industry associations to improve the effectiveness of the national freight system and related intermodal connectors.

Goal 6: Communication and Awareness

Help decision-makers understand the value of transportation and support agencies with adequate, sustainable resources.

6.1 Promote strategic communication on transportation issues.

Contribute to the efforts of the AASHTO Board of Directors and the Committee on Transportation Communications to build trust and credibility with the public and elected officials, and to assist in securing national support for sufficient, sustainable, transportation revenue.

Implementation Actions:

- Provide technical expertise to transportation education and advocacy efforts, and identify, document, and share state successes.
- Compile data needed to assist in communicating the value of transportation to the economy and to the quality of life of our citizens and communities.
- Provide information about current and future transportation trends and needs, and the ability of our nation's transportation infrastructure to meet those demands, for use in communicating messages at the federal, state, and local level.
- Assist in coordinating messages about the value of transportation with such associations as the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA), American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), American Public Works Association (APWA), and National Association of County Engineers (NACE).

Goal 7: Workforce Development

Support our workforce in meeting existing and future industry demands.

7.1 Share knowledge and implement tools to address workforce planning and development.

Support the states by advancing the knowledge and implementation of tools to address workforce planning and development in transportation-related disciplines.

Implementation Actions:

- Work closely with the Committee on Human Resources and the Committee on Knowledge Management to facilitate progress on current and future core transportation workforce challenges.
- Assist in establishing a workforce assessment tool and training clearinghouse in collaboration with the Committee on Human Resources and/or other appropriate committees and technical assistance programs.
- Propose research to gather information on successful implementation of a continuing education or "AASHTO university" concept for state DOTs.
- Identify priorities for current training needs and support training development in collaboration with the AASHTO Committee on Human Resources, the Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council (TC3) technical service program, FHWA, and other training organizations such as the National LTAP Association and the American Public Works Association (APWA).