

Strategic Plan for the Special Committee on Research and Innovation

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

Goal 1: Set a Strategic Research Direction

Identify high-level, national strategic needs and promote activities to address them.

- 1.1 Communicate with the Strategic Research Team, consisting of the State DOT CEOs serving on the TRB Executive Committee, on a periodic basis to solicit and discuss critical and emerging issues and determine strategic direction for NCHRP-funded research.
- 1.2 Provide direction to AASHTO committees on strategic areas of emphasis in the annual solicitation of NCHRP research needs statements.

Goal 2: Ensure the Effectiveness of the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP)

Ensure that the NCHRP produces relevant, high-quality research that addresses the strategic needs identified by AASHTO executive leadership, facilitates the grassroots needs of AASHTO members and the nation, and provides a high return on investment.

- 2.1 Support a core program of practical, focused research.
- 2.2 Identify and implement approaches to accelerate the research program timeline.
- 2.3 Ensure that effective procedures and policies are followed to ensure the objectivity and credibility of the program.
- 2.4 Develop effective communication strategies to disseminate information about the Special Committee's activities and the NCHRP program.

Goal 3: Champion Deployment and Innovation

Champion and facilitate the dissemination and deployment of high-priority research results and effective and innovative methods, products, practices.

- 3.1 Determine the role of the Special Committee and the AASHTO Innovation Initiative (A.I.I.) in defining, identifying, and deploying innovation within AASHTO and its member departments and in coordination with partner organizations.
- 3.2 Develop strategies and guidance for the efficient and effective deployment of research results.

- 3.3 Champion the accelerated implementation of technology, innovation, and improved operating practices among AASHTO member agencies, local agencies, and their industry partners to improve the nation's transportation system.

Goal 4: Facilitate Collaboration

Facilitate collaboration and partnerships with local, state, federal, private, university, and international research programs.

- 5.1 Participate in a national, ongoing dialog to define and maintain a framework for strategic, multimodal transportation research that meets current and future challenges.
- 5.2 Represent AASHTO in a coordination role with other national and international research initiatives.

Goal 5: Communicate the Value of Research

Promote the value of research, development, and innovation.

- 6.1 Effectively communicate the overall potential and value of research so that research is recognized as integral to delivering improved transportation services.
- 6.2 Assist AASHTO with the development of recommendations for the research component of federal transportation funding bills.
- 6.3 Encourage and support the use of knowledge management and technology transfer practices to ensure that future transportation professionals have ready access to the knowledge they need.

Goal 6: Continuously Improve as a Committee

Continuously review and improve committee functions and activities.

- 7.1 On an ongoing basis, review the relevance of R&I and RAC activities with respect to the strategic plan.
- 7.2 Convene focused workshops and retreats, as appropriate, to support ongoing committee activities.
- 7.3 Periodically report to the AASHTO Board of Directors and other AASHTO committees the activities of the Special Committee in support of AASHTO and its members.