



## Committee on Implementing the Research Results of the Second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP 2) Letter Report: January 20, 2015

### DETAILS

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# TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

January 20, 2015

Mr. Gregory Nadeau  
Acting Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. Bud Wright  
Executive Director  
American Association of State Highway and  
Transportation Officials  
444 North Capitol Street, NW  
Suite 249  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Nadeau and Mr. Wright:

This is the seventh and final letter report of the Committee on Implementing the Research Results of the Second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP 2). The committee has issued six prior letter reports containing a series of recommendations focused on implementation plans and actions by USDOT and the state departments of transportation to incorporate the use of SHRP 2 products into their everyday business practices. The committee held its final meeting in Washington, DC on December 16, 2014. It received briefings from representatives of TRB on the completion of the research program and from FHWA and AASHTO staff on the status of the implementation program. Based on the presentations made by FHWA and AASHTO staff, it is clear that FHWA and AASHTO have been responsive to the committee's prior recommendations. The committee is pleased with the progress that has been made in implementation of SHRP 2 and has no further recommendations to offer beyond those contained in our previous letter reports.

The following is a summary of how FHWA and AASHTO responded to the recommendations contained in the committee's last letter report.

Moving Products to Implementation as Soon as Practical and to a Broader Audience. FHWA and AASHTO have been steadily moving products to implementation and have plans for implementation of nearly all of the products by the end of 2015. Outreach activities beyond state DOTs have increased. Planning is underway for allocating all remaining funds. There will be another meeting of AASHTO's Implementation Planning Task Force in February, 2015 to review recommended funding allocations for the remainder of the program.

Updating Products. FHWA and AASHTO have acknowledged that they need to revise and update products as appropriate. In many instances, they intend to use experience with use of the product to help guide what changes need to be made.

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IT Hosting Decisions. FHWA and AASHTO have made decisions regarding permanent or various interim hosts for all IT products. The committee was assured that there would be no gaps in hosting of IT products when TRB's responsibility for hosting of these products ended on December 31, 2014.

Broadening the Target Audience for Marketing, Communications, and Education of SHRP 2 Products. FHWA and AASHTO are communicating the message about SHRP 2 products to MPOs, local governments, and the consultant/contractor community through a number of associations representing these groups. FHWA in cooperation with AASHTO is planning an initiative to recognize university faculty who integrate SHRP 2 products into undergraduate and graduate transportation programs.

Evaluation. FHWA has initiated the process that they and AASHTO will use to document output, outcome, and impact/benefit information for selected products and for the overall program. This is being done consistent with the approach that is being used for several other innovation initiatives underway by FHWA. Information obtained from this evaluation effort will be critical for documenting the benefits derived from the investment made in SHRP 2 research.

Lessons learned for process-related products should be shared among the focus areas. FHWA and AASHTO are sharing lessons learned from the implementation of process-related products with staff leads for other products within the same focus area, as well as among staff leads in all four focus areas.

Implementation activities are underway in every state across the nation. The amount of activity, both as part of the Implementation Assistance Program (IAP) and outside of the IAP, is impressive. There are more than 250 IAP projects underway in 49 state DOTs and the District of Columbia. In addition 22 MPOs and 1 tribe have received IAP resources, including financial assistance, training, technical assistance, and equipment. There are 76 distinct recipients of IAP resources. Additional implementation efforts are taking place outside of the IAP, for example incident response training from Project L12 has been delivered to more than 80,000 responders to date. Round 5 of the IAP will open in January 2015 and Round 6 in June 2015.

The committee commends FHWA and AASHTO for their responsiveness to the recommendations contained in our previous letter reports and for the considerable progress that has been made in implementation of the SHRP 2 program. The committee would like to congratulate FHWA and AASHTO for establishing such a successful implementation program, the result of which should be SHRP 2 products being incorporated into the everyday way of doing business in state DOTs and other transportation organizations all across the nation. Although implementation efforts will continue through 2017, the program is clearly headed in the right direction. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,



Kirk T. Steudle  
Chair, Committee on Implementing the  
Research Results of SHRP

Attachment

## Attachment 1

### TRB Committee on Implementing the Research Results of the Second Strategic Highway Research Program

Kirk T. Steudle, Chair, Director, Michigan Department of Transportation  
H. Norman Abramson, Executive Vice President (Retired), Southwest Research Institute  
Shailen P. Bhatt, Cabinet Secretary, Delaware Department of Transportation  
Carlos Braceras, Executive Director, Utah Department of Transportation  
Alan C. Clark, MPO Director, Houston-Galveston Area Council  
Frank L. Danchetz, Vice President, ARCADIS-US, Inc.  
Malcolm Dougherty, Director, California Department of Transportation  
Mary L. Klein, President and CEO, NatureServe  
Michael P. Lewis, Director, Rhode Island Department of Transportation<sup>1</sup>  
Ananth K. Prasad, Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation  
Gerald Ross, Chief Engineer and Transportation Strategist, Jacobs Engineering Group<sup>1</sup>  
George E. Schoener, Executive Director, I-95 Corridor Coalition  
Kumares C. Sinha, Olson Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering, Purdue University  
Paul Trombino III, Director, Iowa Department of Transportation

#### Liaisons

Jeffrey F. Paniati, Executive Director, Federal Highway Administration

Jeff Michael, Associate Administrator, National Highway Transportation Safety Administration<sup>1</sup>

Frederick G. “Bud” Wright, Executive Director, American Association of State Highway and  
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Research Board

Neil J. Pedersen, Deputy Director of Strategic Highway Research Program, Transportation  
Research Board

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<sup>1</sup> Did not attend the December 16, 2014, committee meeting