**Pooled Fund: 2014 Asset Management Conference and Training on Implementation Strategies**

**Study Objectives:**

1. Provide communication and information sharing among member states. Discuss research needs and provide research ideas to TRB.
2. Provide a technology and knowledge exchange forum to enhance the practical knowledge of member states concerning asset management implementation.
3. Enhance the working knowledge of the asset management community.

**Problem Statement:** There is a significant interest among State and local transportation organizations in implementing Asset Management (AM). The National Conference on Transportation Asset Management, co-sponsored by State DOTs, TRB, FHWA, and others, will help ensure that transportation agencies have the opportunity to evaluate and consider AM principles for their organization.

The role of this Pooled Fund is to provide a venue for partner states to share ideas and experiences with each other and experts in the field. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings will allow for interaction and a peer exchange of AM implementation. The conference will include interactive sessions on various topics related to AM and case studies of various agency implementation efforts will be included in the 2014 conference program. Partner states will benefit from a follow-up “Implementation Strategies” webinar to be held approximately 1 month after the conference.

The conference is designed to be a forum for practitioners, researchers, and others to share information on a variety of transportation asset management topics. The conference will cover surface transportation modes only. Sessions will cover a broad range of topics that will be of interest to agencies that are in the early or late stages of AM implementation.

**Scope of Work:** The Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) will serve as lead state for the execution of this Pooled Fund project. The Transportation Research Board (TRB) will facilitate all administrative duties associated with the project and will invoice the Iowa DOT for reimbursement up to the amount available in the Pooled Fund. The principle tasks are:

1. Learning Session/TAC meeting – Coordinate a workshop Technical Advisory Committee meeting for member states to learn and review issues associated with implementation of asset management. Since member states may be at different stages of implementation, this is an opportunity to share best practices and strategies for overcoming certain challenges. This meeting may be planned as a separate webinar or may be held in conjunction with the conference.

2. Asset Management Conference – Provide a venue for the member states to exchange information on the challenges to asset management implementation. The pooled fund will help support conference and expert state and local speaker travel and expenses. The pooled fund will not support private industry personnel travel or expenses. Because the pooled fund will be a primary funding source for the conference and associated workshops and speakers, the number of partner states will directly influence the number of expert speakers and related conference sessions and workshops.

One member from up to 8 partner states will be invited to serve on the conference planning committee (invitations prioritized based on the order of commitments received). Active conference planning participation will enable member states to work with experts in the field, shape the conference program, evaluate their agency’s current capacity in all areas of asset management, and help determine priorities for their agencies.

3. Training – Post wrap-up “Implementation Strategies” webinar for partner states. Additional webinar training from conference highlights may be provided as funds allow.

**Deliverables:** The conference is proposed for the spring of 2014. Deliverables will include quarterly report updates, at least one webinar as a follow-up to the conference, and a final summary report of the conference. Additional webinars may be provided as funds allow.

**Conference Planning Committee:** A Conference Planning Committee will be formed by TRB and is proposed to include one member from each of the first 8 states who post commitments to the project. In addition, each pooled fund partner state will be a member of the pooled fund Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and as such will receive quarterly report updates, meet separately during the conference to discuss Objectives Item #3 (Identify needed research projects, provide on-going communication of research needs faced by members, and provide research ideas to funding agencies), and be partner to a follow-up webinar on Implementation Strategies.

**Comments:** Funding is desired at the start of the project to ensure that services can be provided as anticipated. Participation will be at $10,000 per state, which will fund travel and expenses for two (2) representatives to attend the 2014 conference. A minimum of 6 commitments at $10,000 each is required to begin planning for this work. The commitments may be divided between FY13 and FY14. The location of the conference is to be determined.

**Estimated Study Duration:** 24 Months

**Commitments Required (Total Cost of Study):** $60,000

**Commitment Start Year and End Year:** 2013 - 2014