

**CORE PROGRAM SERVICES FOR A HIGHWAY  
RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM  
FISCAL YEARS 2003—2007**

**Introduction**

The transportation research community consists of numerous partnerships to aid in the conduct of research and the implementation of technologies and innovations. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the States, and the National Academies are among these partners, who work closely in many facets of the national research program.

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) is a unit of the National Research Council, a private, nonprofit institution that is the principal operating agency of the National Academy of Sciences. The TRB's mission is to promote innovation and progress in transportation by stimulating and conducting research, facilitating the dissemination of information, and encouraging the implementation of research results.

The TRB fulfills this mission through the work of its standing technical committees and task forces addressing all modes and aspects of transportation; publication and dissemination of reports and peer-reviewed technical papers on research findings; administration of two contract research programs; conduct of special studies on transportation policy issues; maintenance of a transportation research data base (TRIS); and hosting an annual meeting that attracts transportation professionals from throughout the United States and abroad.

The TRB is supported by state transportation departments, the various administrations of the U.S. Department of Transportation and other federal agencies, industry associations, and other organizations and individuals interested in the development of transportation.

**Purpose**

Every 3 years, a triennium agreement is developed among the supporting members of the TRB, including FHWA and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), which outlines the TRB core program for that period and includes a 3-year budget.

The purpose of this FHWA-administered pooled fund study is to provide a mechanism for State transportation departments to support the TRB's core program and services.

FHWA is responsible for creating and maintaining an annual pooled fund study in its research and technology program, and in its financial system to facilitate State transportation department support for TRB's core program and services. TRB is responsible for conducting and providing its core program and services to the State transportation departments.

The goals and objectives of this pooled fund study are to enable TRB to provide services to assist the States to accomplish the following:

- Support a national and international highway R&T program.
- Encourage and promote the establishment of research activities within all highway agencies.
- Assist in the operation and maintenance of the Transportation Research Information

- Service (TRIS).
- Disseminate highway research results and promote implementation and technology transfer.

### **Use of 100 Percent SP&R Funds**

The proposed study meets the criteria for the waiver of the non-Federal match for State Planning and Research (SP&R) funding and has been authorized to proceed with the study using 100 percent State Planning and Research (SP&R) funding. A new pooled fund study will be established each year for the annual State transportation department contributions.

### **Estimated Cost**

Each State's assessment is based on the funding commitments agreed to in the triennium budget agreement. States interested in participating in this pooled fund study should work with Michael LaPlante at the Transportation Research Board at 202-334-3215 to determine the individual State's assessment of funds for obtaining TRB core program services.

### **Participation and Funding**

This pooled fund study provides an alternative option to the traditional means of States' funding TRB's core program through direct payments to TRB; States may continue to use the traditional option. For those who choose to provide their funds through this pooled fund study, participation in and funding of the core program for the State transportation departments are to be in accordance with the following:

- Annually, State transportation departments will indicate to FHWA and TRB by the end of the first quarter of the Federal fiscal year (December 31) their intention of supporting TRB's core program through participation in a pooled fund study.
- State transportation departments electing to provide their funds through this pooled fund study will obligate their funds in the FHWA Fiscal Management Information System by the end of the second quarter of the Federal fiscal year (March 31).
- State transportation departments will obligate their funds by executing the project agreement, Form PR-2, and submitting it to their FHWA Division Office.
- FHWA will administer the pooled fund study on behalf of State transportation departments by initiating a cooperative agreement that funds part of the core program conducted by TRB.