NATIONAL ACADEMIES Sciences Engineering Medicine

TRB TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

Help Solve America's Transportation Challenges

Get Involved with the Transportation Research Board's Cooperative Research Programs

Explore Cooperative Research Safety Products

National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP)

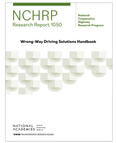
NCHRP conducts safety research that furthers the practice and contributes to AASHTO products.

Safety Analysis & Research Related to the AASHTO Highway Safety Manual

NCHRP Research Report 1064: Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Performance Functions

NCHRP Project 17-71A: Proposed AASHTO Highway Safety Manual, Second Edition

Safety Guides for Practitioners



NCHRP Research Report 1050: Wrong-Way Driving Solutions Handbook

NCHRP Research Report 1006: Guide to Understanding Effects of Raising Speed Limits

Roadside Safety & Research Related to the AASHTO Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware

NCHRP Research Report 1116: Development of a MASH Barrier to Shield Pedestrians, Bicyclists, and Other Vulnerable Users from Motor Vehicles

NCHRP Research Report 1005: Motorcycle Crashes into Traffic Barriers: Factors Related to Serious and Fatal Injuries

Behavioral Traffic Safety Cooperative Research Program (BTSCRP)

BTSCRP provides practical, ready-to-implement solutions to save lives, prevent injuries, and reduce the costs of road traffic crashes associated with unsafe road user behaviors.

NCHRP Research Report 1111/BTSCRP Research Report 12: Diagnostic Assessment and Countermeasure Selection: A Toolbox for Traffic Safety Practitioners

BTSCRP Research Report 9: E-Scooter Safety Toolbox

BTSCRP Research Report 8: Highway Safety Behavioral Strategies for Rural and Tribal Areas: A Guide

A Focus on the Safe System Approach

The Safe System (SS) approach is a holistic and comprehensive approach for addressing traffic safety for all road users, considering the elements of safer people, safer roads, safer vehicles, safer speeds, and post crash care. BTSCRP and NCHRP are conducting a series of projects to further the knowledge of the SS and its implementation across the United States. These are some examples of the research:

- BTSCRP BTS-24: Multi-Solving Safety Approach - Stepping Away from Silos to Achieve a Safer System
- NCHRP 08-171: Institutionalizing the Safe System Approach in Transportation Planning and Programming (Expected: October 2025)
- NCHRP 17-101: Applying the Safe System Approach to Transportation Planning, Design, and Operations in the United States (Completed— Pub pending)
- NCHRP 17-113: Incorporating Safe System Approach into the NCHRP 500 Series (Expected: February 2026)
- NCHRP 17-116: Practical Approaches to Quantifying Safe System Concepts (Expected: April 2027)
- NCHRP 17-125: Incorporating the Safe System Approach into Road Safety Audits (Expected: October 2026)
- NCHRP 20-24(145): Harnessing the Safe System Approach to Meaningfully Improve Traffic Safety (Expected: June 2026)

Volunteer for Panel Service

NCHRP research is conducted by contractors with technical oversight provided by a panel of 8-10 practitioners and industry experts who volunteer from transportation agencies, academia, and private consulting firms.

Why Volunteer to Serve on a Panel?

- Help solve problems of national importance and advance the state of practice.
- Cultivate leadership skills and professional expertise while networking with experts and peers.
- Join a community of practice with transportation planners, engineers, and researchers.
- Directly contribute to new products, techniques, and guidelines to create a safer, more reliable, and costeffective transportation service.

What Are Volunteers' Responsibilities?

- Attend three in-person meetings (travel expenses for US volunteers are paid for).
- Develop a request for proposals and recommend research contractors.
- Monitor research progress, review reports and deliverables, and provide feedback on the contractor's work.
- Participate in occasional conference calls.
- Support research implementation.

Who Should Volunteer?

- Industry leaders and subject matter experts.
- Qualified practitioners who reflect the nation's diversity and represent a variety of backgrounds and life experiences.

Upcoming Projects

Announcements for new projects appear in the TRB E-Newsletter. NCHRP typically announces new projects in May, and BTSCRP in July. Subscribe to the program distribution letter to nominate and visit: https://volunteer.mytrb.org/Panel/AvailableProjects.

Contribute a Problem Statement

NCHRP Problem Statements

The AASHTO Special Committee on Research and Innovation (R&I) solicits candidate research problems each year for NCHRP. Problem statements are due by November 1.

- Submitters are encouraged, but not required, to vet or submit problem statements through an appropriate AASHTO Committee or Council.
- While anyone can write or contribute to preparing a problem statement, NCHRP only accepts problem statements from:
  - Employees of state DOTs
  - AASHTO staff on behalf of an AASHTO Committee or Council
  - Federal Highway Administration
- The AASHTO Special Committee on Research and Innovation (R&I) selects projects based on five key factors:
  1. The potential research results are of national interest.
  2. How well the research addresses critical needs and strategic objectives of AASHTO and the state DOTs.
  3. The likelihood that the research objective can be successfully achieved within the constraints of the proposed time and funds.
  4. The likelihood that the research will produce implementationready products.
  5. The likelihood that the research will be implemented by state DOTs.

BTSCRP Problem Statements

Each year TRB and the Governors Highway Safety Association provide an opportunity to submit research needs for the Behavioral The BTSCRP undertakes research for any behavioral issue faced by traffic safety stakeholders. Particular emphasis areas are:

- Alcohol-impaired driving
- Autonomous vehicles
- Bicyclists and pedestrians
- Child passenger safety
- Distracted driving
- Drowsy driving
- Drug-impaired driving
- Law enforcement
- Mature drivers
- Motorcyclist safety
- Seat belts
- Speed and red light cameras
- Speeding and aggressive driving
- Teen driver safety

Anyone can write or submit a problem statement. Submissions from individuals and organizations outside the traditional fields of traffic safety are also encouraged.

NHTSA and TRB staff will review the submitted research project problem statements and provide feedback to the Governing Board. The Governing Board gives final approval of the annual research projects. The BTSCRP is dedicated to diversity of ideas, panelists, disciplines, and research contractors.

Conduct Research

Who Can Respond to an RFP?

Anyone may submit a proposal. Proposers must demonstrate extensive capabilities and proven experience in the research topic. TRB encourages participation of small businesses, minority-owned firms, and women's business enterprises, as contractors or subcontractors for projects. Proposers based outside the United States may respond to RFPs.

Requirements for preparing proposals: www.trb.org/NCHRP/CRPInfoProposers.aspx

Sign Up to Receive RFPs

CRP publishes RFPs in the weekly TRB E-Newsletter; subscribe at https://www.trb.org/Publications/PubsTRBENewsletter.aspx

For more information, please email MyTRB@nas.edu. You can also receive immediate notice of a new RFP by subscribing to the CRP Announce listserv LISTSERV@LSW.NAS.EDU.

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Subscribe to the CRP Announce listserv LISTSERV@LSW.NAS.EDU

Synthesis of Information Related to Highway Problems

NCHRP Project 20-05, "Synthesis of Information Related to Highway Problems," searches out and synthesizes knowledge on specific topics from available sources and prepares concise, documented reports. Each year, the NCHRP Project 20-05 Committee meets to select approximately 21 topics for study. For each topic, the NCHRP convenes a study panel to select a contractor and oversee the research.

NCHRP Synthesis Program encourages those interested to submit a topic for consideration, panel nomination, or research proposal. For further information, please visit https://www.trb.org/SynthesisPrograms/SynthesesNCHRP.aspx.

These are some examples of topics in the synthesis program:

- Synthesis 20-05/56-10: Practices to Reduce Serious Injuries and Fatalities with DOT Employees (New)
- Synthesis 20-05/54-10: State Customization of Highway Safety Manual Methods (Ongoing)
- Synthesis 20-05/52–11: DOT Practices on Road Safety Audits (Synthesis Report 615)
- Synthesis 20-05/46-07: State Practices for Local Road Safety (Synthesis Report 486)

National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP)
www.trb.org/NCHRP

Behavioral Traffic Safety Cooperative Research Program (BTSCRP)
www.trb.org/BTSCRP

Transportation Research Information Services (TRIS)
TRIS is the world's largest bibliographic source on transportation information.
https://trid.trb.org/

TRB Snap Searches
Searches designed to provide a succinct summary on a specific topic.
https://www.trb.org/InformationServices/Snap.aspx