

DRAFT

Policy Analysis and System Monitoring Working Group

Notes, Oct. 19, 1999 Meeting

Summary

This was the first meeting of the Policy Analysis and System Monitoring Working Group since the R&T structure was formally approved in July. TRB, AASHTO and convened the initiative. This meeting included:

- Explanation of National Research and Technology Partnership Forum process
- Presentations from key stakeholders
- Discussion of the scope of interest for the Working Group
- Development of a process to define relevant research categories
- Identification of need for more state DOT and private sector participation

Background

The Policy Analysis and System Monitoring Working Group is one of five groups supporting the National Research and Technology Partnership Forum. The Forum, which is sponsored by TRB, AASHTO and FHWA has met previously on December 10, 1998 and July 9, 1999.

The five Working Groups are:

1. Policy Analysis and System Monitoring
2. Safety
3. Infrastructure Renewal
4. Operations and Mobility
5. Planning and Environment

Working Group objectives are to provide input to a National Highway Research Agenda and improve coordination among research programs

The Operations and Mobility Working Group is on hold. The Institute of Transportation Engineers is beginning a separate initiative on behalf of FHWA to assess the future of transportation operations. To ensure coordination, TRB will wait to establish the working group until after the ITE national steering committee has been selected and

meets. For Planning and Environment TRB, on behalf of FHWA, is establishing an Advisory Group for the Surface Transportation Environment Cooperative Research Program (STECRP). Because the charge to this group is similar to that of a working group, a group will not be established and the STECRP Committee will perform the needed functions.

TEA21 mandated a Surface Transportation Environmental Cooperative Research Program Committee (STECRP). The National Research Council committee is being formed and will address those sets of issues. Communication will be maintained with the STECRP.

Each working group will:

- (1) identify the major issues in their area of interest;
- (2) review existing research programs, including FHWA, AASHTO/NCHRP, state DOTs, and others being conducted in their area of interest;
- (3) assess the coverage in relation to the current issues, and identify gaps and areas of overlap;
- (4) determine priority research areas;
- (5) develop marketing information on the benefits to result from research expenditures; and
- (6) facilitate partnerships and coordination to carry out needed research

It is anticipated that the working groups will primarily deal with research theme areas rather than individual projects, e.g., roadside safety rather than barrier design. Basic and applied research will be addressed. The working group findings, including suggestions for new emphasis areas and coordination among programs, will be forwarded to the Research and Technology Coordinating Committee for consideration and further action. The results will also be forwarded to the sponsors for their information (actual recommendations to sponsors will come only from the RTCC).

Existing Committee Structures

The existing committees of TRB, AASHTO, ITE, etc. form the third tier of the R&T hierarchy. Mike Bronzini suggested that the TRB standing committees be used to determine how well appropriate Policy Analysis and System Monitoring research areas are being covered.

Research and Technology Coordinating Committee (RTCC)

The Research and Technology Coordinating Committee (RTCC) is a special committee convened by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Research Council. It is set up under National Research Council (NRC) guidelines to be able to provide continuing guidance to FHWA on highway research and technology opportunities and priorities.

Barna Juhasz summarized the Policy Analysis and System Monitoring Working Group meeting on June 14, 1999. (See meeting summary). That group categorized relevant research into the following types.

- Data Collection
- Research and Management
- International
- Pricing and finance
- Benefits/Costs of Transportation Investments
- Performance
- Safety
- Futures

Presentations from Stakeholders. See appendices

Participants from stakeholder organizations made presentations about their research interests in Policy Analysis and System Monitoring. See details in their written summaries or link to their web sites.

FHWA

Susan Binder

BTS

Rolf Schmitt

OST	Ed Weiner
FTA	Rich Steinmann
AASHTO	Janet Oakley
CUTC	Andrew Farkas
NARC	Rich Denbow
NCHRP	Ron McCready
TCRP	Steve Andrie
TRB Policy Div	Ann Brach
RTCC ¹	Walt Diewald

Schedule of Activities

As a very diverse, new activity, progress in developing consensus on the broad agenda will take time. One long-range goal is developing common community vision to support the next reauthorization process. The RTCC is the body that can convert Working Group proposals and recommendations into consolidated advice and recommendations. It meets in the spring so that represents a target for developing an initial Working Group product. The RTCC has expressed an interest in holding a joint meeting with all working group chairs in that time period.

The tentative date for the next Working Group meeting to develop a framework and categories for Policy Analysis and System Monitoring research is January 27, 2000.

Categories for Programs of Research

Mike Bronzini agreed to lead a small group that would develop a draft of relevant categories for Policy Analysis and System Monitoring research. He will use existing documents as a guide. Developing consensus on relevant research categories as a scope for the Working Group will be the major focus for the January meeting. See Appendix for the working list of studies to be considered.

Themes or Questions for the Working Group

¹ Research and Technology Coordinating Committee

1. What are the research themes?
2. Do current research projects address the themes well enough?
3. If not, how much more effort should there be?
4. What are our action steps/recommendations? This could include how we would measure the impact of recommended research.

Bingham noted that in Policy Analysis and System Monitoring determining the impact of results is very difficult and often the benefit of research is to eliminate the least desirable approaches or outcomes.

Participation

Only one state DOT participated in this meeting. Two state DOT employees had intended to participate but were unable due to conflicts. It was noted that a SCOR strategic planning meeting was occurring at the same time, which precluded some likely participants from attending. (Subsequent to this meeting, SCOR approved funding for AASHTO committees representatives to attend all five working groups in the future). Active future participation by state DOTs was felt to be essential for ultimate success of this process. Likewise, it was felt that the private sector was not adequately represented.

FHWA	7
Other US DOT	3
Other Federal	0
State DOT	1
AASHTO Staff	3
Association/Non-Profit	5
TRB	1
University	5
<u>Private Consultants</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	28

Resources to Support Working Group Activities

No funding has been allocated to support this R&T process. TRB is hosting the process and providing the basic staff support for holding the meetings. Barna Juhasz and Susan Binder will determine if FHWA Research Office funds are available for synthesis and

web support. It is anticipated that as the process evolves better identification of necessary support levels will be possible.

Appendices
Policy Analysis and System Monitoring Working Group
Oct. 10, 1999 Meeting Notes

June 14, 1999 Working Group Summary

Policy Research Program Summaries

	<i>Org.</i>	<i>Contact Status</i>
FHWA	Susan Binder	Received
BTS	Rolf Schmitt	
OST	Ed Weiner	Received
FTA	Rich Steinmann	
NCHRP	Ron McCready	Use web site
TCRP	Steve Andrie	Use web site
TRB Div B	Ann Brach	Received
AASHTO	Janet Oakley	
CUTC	Andrew Farkas	Received
NARC	Rich Denbow	Expected week of Nov. 1

Existing Resources for Policy Analysis and System Monitoring Research Categorization

Working Group Guidelines

Attendance Roster