

Process for developing *Research Makes the Difference* brochure
CTC & Associates LLC
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For the past three years, CTC & Associates has produced the annual NCHRP executive brochure in the series titled “Research Makes the Difference.” In each of these years, CTC drafted a list of candidate transportation research projects to be featured and submitted the list to the NCHRP contract managers and the AASHTO RAC Value of Research Task Force for review and approval. The brochure typically includes 11 or 12 summary write-ups (usually featuring one state DOT research project but sometimes including two or three projects) plus one write-up about an FHWA research effort and another about an NCHRP project.

Selection criteria

In selecting the candidate state DOT research projects to be featured, CTC uses criteria that have been developed with the input of NCHRP and the Task Force.

- Projects that fit into the thematic categories of the publication (in 2010 and 2011 the categories were safety, roads/bridges, environment, and planning/management)
- A variety of project types (such as field implementations, development of new processes or specifications, pooled fund study results, outreach efforts, etc.)
- A target of three projects from each of the four AASHTO regions
- If possible, projects from states that have not been featured in previous editions

Satisfying these criteria necessarily requires omitting a number of worthy projects each year. The introductory text in the brochure stresses that it is just presenting a sampling of the outstanding research being conducted at the state level.

Information sources

CTC looks to the “High Value Research” compendium of projects as the primary source of candidate state projects for the brochure. In 2011 we looked first at the “sweet sixteen” projects – the top projects as voted on by state DOT research directors from each region – to see if they fit the several selection criteria listed above before moving on to consider projects from the entire compendium.