

High Value Research Projects Submittal Guidance

Research Impacts: Better-Faster-Cheaper
AASHTO Research Advisory Committee
[Value of Research Task Force](#)

Overview

Acting on the strategic plan of the AASHTO Standing Committee on Research (SCOR), the AASHTO Research Advisory Committee (RAC) asks states each year to identify and document recently completed “high-value” research (HVR) projects. RAC publishes an annual compilation of these projects in a document entitled [Research Impacts: Better-Faster-Cheaper](#). The document provides substantial value to states, serves as a quick reference to HVR projects from a given year, and helps eliminate or reduce duplication of research.

Every January, the Value of Research Task Force Chair announces the solicitation notice to RAC for HVR projects. From these submittals, each of the four RAC regions selects its top four projects to form the “AASHTO Research Sweet Sixteen Awards.” These projects are then featured in AASHTO events and other publications (such as the [Research Makes the Difference](#) brochure) and are also the subject of a poster session at the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting. Research project awards are given to CEOs at the AASHTO Annual Meeting and to Research Managers at the AASHTO RAC/TRB Representative meeting.

The Value of Research Task Force has put together this guidance document to assist AASHTO-RAC Research Managers and staff in the selection and submittal of HVR projects from their state. Each state is encouraged to submit as many HVR projects as appropriate. The goal is for each state to contribute at least one HVR project each year.

This guidance document also outlines the criteria that should be used for the state’s selection of HVR projects and clarifies how the “Research Sweet Sixteen” projects are selected.

HVR Submittal Timeline and Deadline

States must submit projects through the [High Value Research \(HVR\) website](#) by **March 31** of a given year. Project submittals after this date will not be accepted. The Value of Research Chair sends out the HVR solicitation notice and coordinates with the RAC Regional Chairs on getting the HVR projects entered into the HVR website.

The RAC Regional Chairs encourage all states within their region to submit HVR projects and participate in the voting process.



General Guidance for HVR Submission

1. Consider selecting research projects when the value or benefit of the research has been quantified or qualified.
 - a. Implementation of the research results will lead to defined benefits (quantified or qualified) for the sponsor agency that outweigh the cost of the research and implementation.
 - b. Project implementation has led to significant changes within agencies, positively impacting the conduct of business. The changes may also be adapted to other agencies across local, state or federal levels.
 - c. The state or other appropriate agencies are making demonstrated progress in implementing the results of the research or otherwise following the project recommendations.
2. The project addresses a demonstrated need, answers specific questions or deals with documented problems relating to the state transportation agencies and its practices.
3. The project clearly identified and fulfilled its objectives.
4. The research results are technically valid and directly support the project recommendations.
5. Research results and implementation activities display innovation. If a project is similar to parallel or past efforts, the nominee should note how the project promotes advancement beyond other results.
6. Consider research projects that have supplemental information and supportive materials (technical summary, video, pictures, technical brief, benefits summary, etc.) to help support and tell the research story.
 - a. Relevant files can be uploaded as attachments to the HVR website.
 - b. Please be aware that you can only view your own attachments on the HVR website. You cannot view submittals or attachments from other states.

Minimum Criteria for Project Submittal

States may submit any research project with the following qualifications:

1. A state can submit any research project completed by **March 31** having significant value or benefit to the department. Research projects that are still in-progress should not be submitted. Research projects previously submitted should not be resubmitted.
2. As implementation of results may take years, projects submitted should have been completed within the last five years.
3. A state may submit completed research projects on which it served as the lead contracting agency, regardless of the funding source. This includes projects fully or partially funded through SPR, UTC, state, local or pooled funds or any other sources.
4. States may combine multiple related or phased projects into a single entry, provided that at least one of the projects fits qualifications 1, 2 and 3 above.