

Annual High Value Research Procedures  
Value of Research Task Force  
1/6/2012

This purpose of this document is to provide procedures for the Value of Research Task Force to conduct the annual High Value Research (HVR) process.

The HVR process was developed and is carried out in direct response to the AASHTO Standing Committee on Research (SCOR) strategic plan. The strategic plan can be found at the following link, <http://research.transportation.org/Pages/SCORStrategicPlan.aspx>

Each year the Value of Research Task Force will solicit, collect, and publish high value research projects from the AASHTO Research Advisory Committee membership. The timeframe and detailed steps are included herein. A member of the Task Force will be the lead person for this process, and referred to in this document as the Coordinator.

January – The Coordinator will solicit high value research outcome information from RAC using the high value research template (see Appendix A). The template was developed by the Task Force and refined by FHWA, which serves as the editor for the final HVR project book. The RAC Regional Chairs will be contacted by the Coordinator and asked to solicit and collect all submittals from their Regions. In addition, others from the RAC community such as FHWA, TRB, and the Cooperative Research Programs are encouraged to make submittals. A suggested means to solicit is via the RAC Leadership listserv. Again, each Region is responsible for soliciting and collecting their HVR projects. Submittals from the Regions and others will be collected by the Coordinator.

March – Regional Chairs should submit all of the HVR projects to the Coordinator. All submittals should be made in Word format and should use the template. Each Region should select their top four HVR projects and submit this information to the Coordinator as well. The Coordinator will send all submittals to FHWA to be edited and compiled into one document. This document is made available during the RAC/TRB summer meeting. CTC Associates, via TRB, are tasked with preparing the four page color ‘Research Makes the Difference’ brochure. The process used for selecting HVR projects to be included in this brochure is included in Appendix B. The Value of Research Task Force serves as the oversight panel to review the draft brochure and provide final acceptance.

May – RAC Leadership may ask for HVR project information to be presented to SCOR.

June – FHWA completes the draft document containing all HVR submittals. The Coordinator reviews the document to ensure all submittals are included. CTC and Associates completes draft of the ‘Research Makes the Difference’ brochure. The Value of Research Task Force reviews the draft brochure.

July/August – Both HVR documents are published and made available during the RAC/TRB annual summer meeting. Both are added to the SCOR/RAC website.

Fall – The ‘Research Makes the Difference’ brochure is delivered to SCOR during the Fall SCOR meeting. The top four HVR projects from each Region referred to as the

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Sweet Sixteen are invited to present at a poster session during the annual TRB meeting in January. The Coordinator assists TRB staff with the poster session planning and may be asked to moderate the poster session.

January – Sweet 16 Poster Session at TRB Annual meeting.

**Timeframe for High Value Research process**

January – The Value of Research TF will solicit high value research outcome information from RAC using high value research template. Include as a regular agenda item on Regional RAC monthly conference calls to encourage maximum participation. Submittals will be collected by Regional RAC chairs.

March – Regional RAC Chairs send information including all submittals and their top four to the Value of Research TF Coordinator. The Coordinator sends submittals to FHWA and to CTC and Associates.

May – RAC Leadership may ask for HVR project information to be presented to SCOR.

June – FHWA completes the draft document containing all HVR submittals. The Coordinator reviews the document to ensure all submittals are included. CTC and Associates completes draft of the ‘Research Makes the Difference’ brochure. The Value of Research Task Force reviews the draft brochure.

July/August – Both HVR documents are published and made available during the RAC/TRB annual summer meeting. Both are added to the SCOR/RAC website.

Fall – The ‘Research Makes the Difference’ brochure is delivered to SCOR during the Fall SCOR meeting. The top four HVR projects from each Region referred to as the Sweet Sixteen are invited to present at a poster session during the annual TRB meeting in January. The Coordinator assists TRB staff with the poster session planning and may be asked to moderate the poster session.

January – Sweet 16 Poster Session at TRB Annual meeting

## Appendix A

Insert Organization Name (E.g., Federal Highway Administration)

<b>PROJECT INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Project Title</b>	<i>E.g., Statistical Analysis of Performance of Recycled Hot Mix Asphalt Overlays in Flexible Pavement Rehabilitation</i>
<b>ID</b>	Report Publication Number
<b>Project Cost</b>	\$xxx,xxx
<b>Duration</b>	xx months or xx years
<b>SUBMITTER</b>	
<b>Submitter Agency</b>	Insert Agency Submitting Research Project
<b>Submitter Contact</b>	First Name Last Name
<b>Submitter E-mail</b>	Insert e-mail address for Submitter
<b>RESEARCH PROGRAM</b>	
<b>Sponsoring Agency or Organization</b>	Insert <b>Research Program</b> Sponsoring Agency
<b>Sponsoring Agency Contact</b>	First Name Last Name
<b>Sponsoring Agency Contact's E-mail</b>	Insert e-mail address for Sponsoring Agency's Contact
<b>RESEARCH AND RESULTS</b>	
<b>Brief Summary of the Research Project</b>	Use paragraph format to describe your research project.
<b>Impact, or Potential Impact, of Implementing Research Results</b>	Use paragraph format to describe the impact or potential impact of implementing research results.
<b>Web Links (if available)</b>	E.g., <a href="http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/research">http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/research</a>

## **Appendix B**

### **Process for developing *Research Makes the Difference* brochure**

CTC & Associates LLC

November 2011

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.