

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Wisconsin Highway Research Program (WHRP) Update

Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association

2016 Contractor-Engineer Conference

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WisDOT



Agenda

- WisDOT Research Program background
- WHRP strategic planning process
- Strategic plan implementation

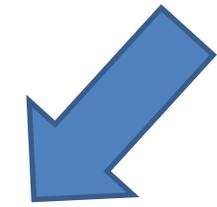
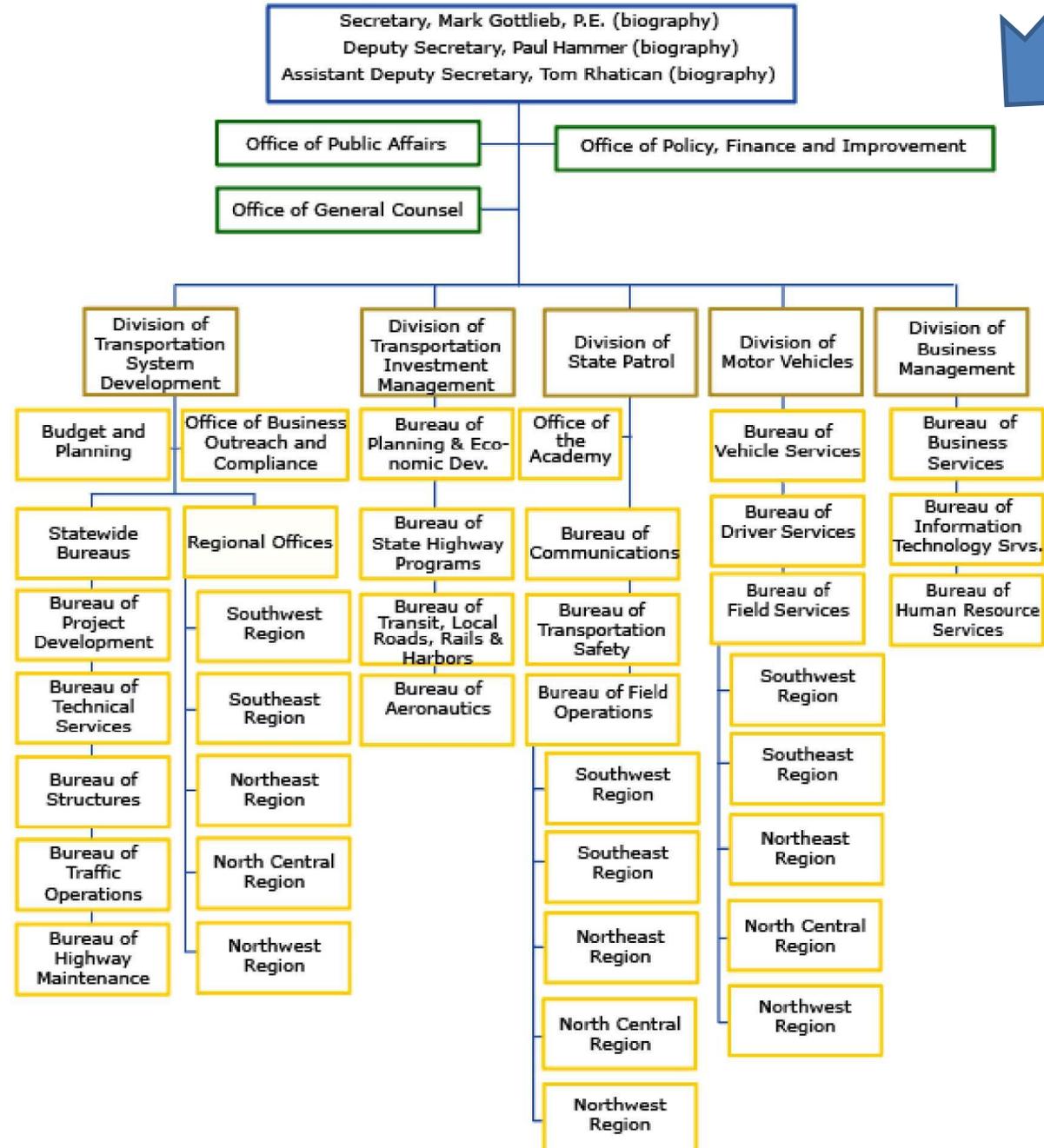




WISDOT RESEARCH PROGRAM BACKGROUND



Wisconsin Department of Transportation Organizational Structure

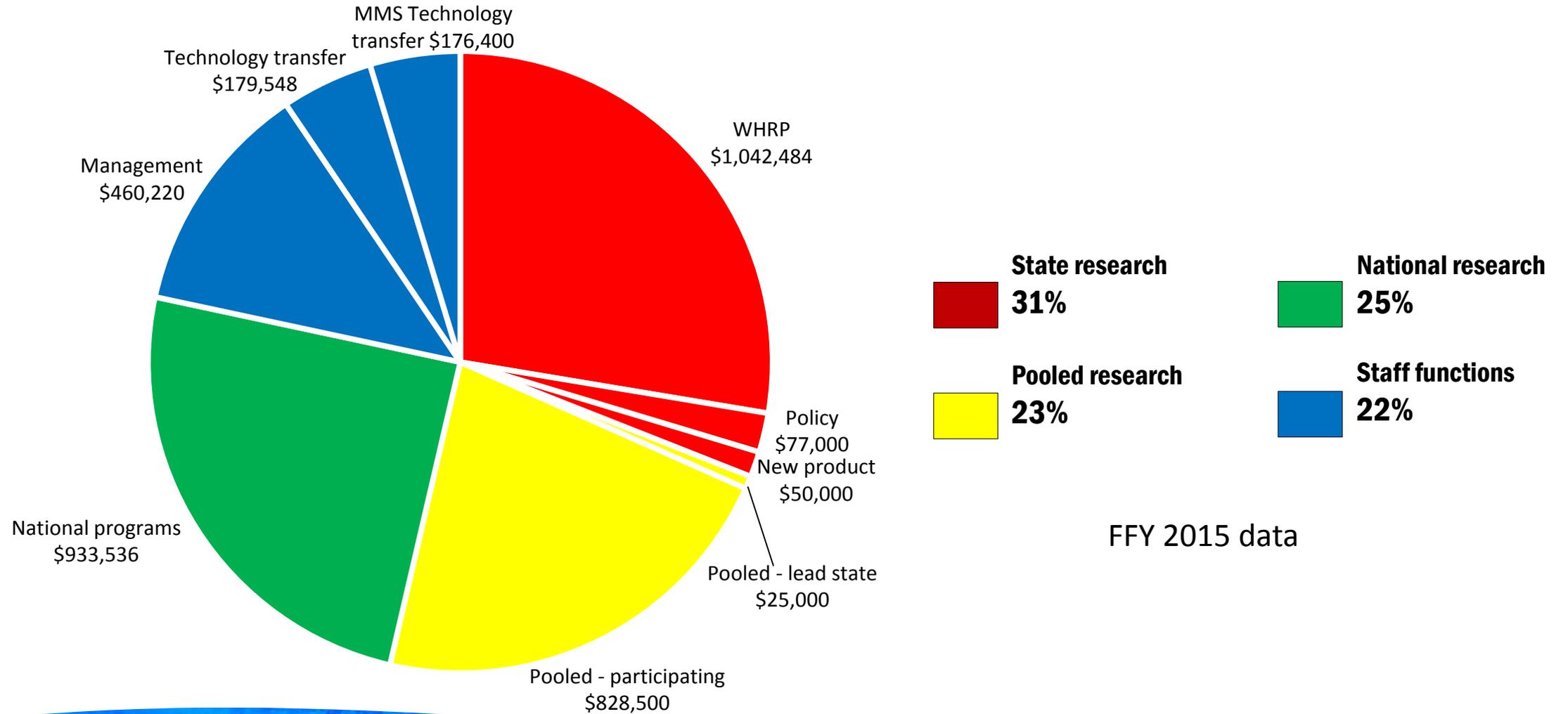


Program overview

- State-based research projects
 - Wisconsin Highway Research Program – focus on improving the state's highways
 - Policy research – non-engineering issues (planning, operations and safety)
- Pooled Fund Projects
- National Research
 - NCHRP
 - SHRP2
- Technology Transfer, library services and program management



Total research funding – \$3.8 million



FFY 2015 data





2016-2020 WISCONSIN HIGHWAY RESEARCH PROGRAM (WHRP) STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS



Background research

- SWOT analysis – 12 questions, 21 responses
 - Strengths: internal factors that give us an advantage.
 - Weaknesses: internal factors that put us in a disadvantage.
 - Opportunities: factors we can leverage to our advantage.
 - Threats: factors in the internal or external environment that are risks to us achieving our mission.
- Focus groups – TOC chairs, research staff, UW Madison contractors
- Metrics on current state



Observations

- Research cycle takes too long.
- Administrative duties are excessive and unclear.
- Implementation efforts are weak.
- Importance of partnerships – internal and external.
- Lack of understanding of value of WHRP and research in general within WisDOT.



WHRP Strategic Plan work group members

- Joe Balice, FHWA
- Scot Becker, WisDOT
- Matt Bronson, WisDOT
- David Esse, WisDOT
- Matt Grove, WTBA
- Diane Gurtner, WisDOT

- Kevin McMullen, WCPA
- Mark Meyers, UW Platteville
- Michael Oliva, UW Madison
- Barry Paye, WisDOT
- Judie Ryan, WisDOT
- Jennifer Walejko, WisDOT



WHRP customers

Internal

- WisDOT Managers
- WisDOT Bureau and Regional Staff
 - Design community

External

- Citizens/Public/Tax Payers
- Highway Users
- FHWA
- Other states
- Construction Industry
 - Design community



WHRP mission, vision, values

- Mission: Facilitate the identification, execution and implementation of applied research to address the current and future needs of Wisconsin's transportation system.
- Vision: WHRP-sponsored research that provides transportation professionals with innovative solutions to deliver a safer, more durable, efficient and affordable Wisconsin transportation system.
- Values: accountability, collaboration, excellence, integrity



Goal 1: Streamline the research cycle

- Strategy – Improve project scoping
- Strategy – Improve project management
- Strategy – Shorten existing research cycle



Goal 2: Ensure timely implementation of valid research findings

- Strategy – Define implementation process
- Strategy – Evaluate roadblocks
- Strategy – Engage internal and external partners in implementation



Goal 3: Develop and strengthen partnerships

- Strategy – Enhance existing partnerships and identify gaps
- Strategy – Communicate the value of WHRP



Goal 4: Leverage funding resources

- Strategy – Explore matching funds
- Strategy – Improve management of current funds





2016-2020 WISCONSIN HIGHWAY RESEARCH PROGRAM (WHRP) STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



Roles and responsibilities

- Program management
- Project management
- Project closeout and implementation
- Steering committee
- Technology transfer and outreach



“Just do it” items

- Procurement tasks
- Project management functions
- Technology transfer activities
- Clarified other miscellaneous activities



Implementation activities

- Implementation lead established
- Implementation underway
 - Implementation priorities
 - Action plans with timelines and responsibilities identified
 - Communication plans
 - Training and outreach



Implementation activities (cont.)

- Program documentation underway by staff
- Metrics under development
- Lean project charter drafted
- Filling staffing vacancies



Questions?

