Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Wisconsin Highway Research Program (WHRP) Update
Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association
2016 Contractor-Engineer Conference
Lori Richter, Chief, Performance, Policy and Research
WisDOT
Agenda

• WisDOT Research Program background

• WHRP strategic planning process

• Strategic plan implementation
WISDOT RESEARCH PROGRAM BACKGROUND
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

- MMS Technology transfer: $179,548
- WHRP: $1,042,484
- Policy: $77,000
- New product: $50,000
- Pooled – lead state: $25,000
- Pooled – participating: $828,500
- National programs: $933,536
- Management: $460,220
- Technology transfer: $176,400

Percentages:
- State research: 31%
- National research: 25%
- Pooled research: 23%
- Staff functions: 22%

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

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<th>Group Members</th>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Balice, FHWA</td>
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<td>Scot Becker, WisDOT</td>
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<td>Matt Bronson, WisDOT</td>
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<td>David Esse, WisDOT</td>
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<td>Matt Grove, WTBA</td>
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<td>Diane Gurtner, WisDOT</td>
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<td>Kevin McMullen, WCPA</td>
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<td>Mark Meyers, UW Platteville</td>
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<td>Michael Oliva, UW Madison</td>
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<td>Judie Ryan, WisDOT</td>
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<td>Jennifer Walejko, WisDOT</td>
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## 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?