



RESEARCH NEED STATEMENT

Call for Projects 2015

Project Research Title: Program Delivery Best Practices

TDOT Sponsor Director: Tanisha J. Hall

List TDOT Research Team Lead: Nick Weander

List TDOT Research Team Members: Alan Jones, Jack Qualls, Jessica Wilson, Larry McGoogin

1. Define the problem or research requested. What is the goal/objective of the research?

TDOT is hoping to enhance the outreach effectiveness of existing grant programs including the CMAQ program in reaching applicants and generating the applications necessary to draw down the funding prior to lapsing.

The goal of the project is to assess national best practices from leading DOTs in how they market, assess, award, and draw down their CMAQ funding. The ultimate outcome will be a best practice guide and tool kit in order to more effectively utilize this funding to positively impact the air quality in Tennessee.

The final product of this research should be usable by multiple TDOT programs including but not limited to the CMAQ program, Community Planning Grant Program and the Multimodal Transportation Grant Program.

2. Is this research a continuation of a past or present project?

No Yes

If yes, provide current research project title, RES # and reason for the project continuation.

3. Describe anticipated benefits/expected deliverables.

Project Benefits-

1. More effective program outreach and education - communicating and working with targeted industries, communities, and applicants to ensure that the funding we receive is effectively utilized by those industries or communities are aware of the program, understand the requirements, can develop successful applications in a timely manner and impact the ultimate goals of the grant or funding programs.

2. Development of a tool-kit - A one-time project to develop better, more-consistent tools to engage local partners, business partners and other potential program beneficiaries in order to make them aware of funding opportunities. This deliverable would give TDOT staff a playbook of how to conduct appropriate program outreach to most effectively market the funding programs.

3. Successful award of and completion of future projects - Ultimately, the two above deliverables should lead to the successful award and completion of grant projects through TDOT's various funding programs to ensure that the funding does not lapse.

4. What is your timeline for completion of the research?

10-12 months

5. List the anticipated tasks for this research.

Market Research

Best Practice Policy Analysis

Outreach Development

6. Describe how the project results will be implemented?

The researcher will find, analyze and explain best practices from other state Departments of Transportation (and potentially other departments) to find, assess and develop a framework for the implementation of program outreach, assessment, and award methods.

7. Will this study produce software, web page or other technology that will involve the Information Technology Division?

No Yes, please describe:

8. Will training be provided to employees as a result of this research?

No Yes, please describe:

TDOT staff will need to be trained on the new outreach, assessment and award methodologies as well as the outreach tool-kit.

9. Will this research involve equipment or materials purchase?

No Yes, please describe:

10. Research must support the Long Range Transportation Plan Policy Recommendations **and/or** TDOT Operational Goals and/or Strategic Initiative. *(See attachments for additional information)*

Please indicate which categories the research will support:

Transportation Long Range Plan Policy Recommendations

(B) Safety, Security, and Transportation Resilience

(C) Coordination, Cooperation, and Consultation

(D) Demographic and Employment Changes and Trends

(E) Freight Logistics and Planning

(F) Financial

(G) Mobility

(H) Travel Trends and System Performance

TDOT Operational Goals and/or Strategic Initiative

(A) Deliver transportation projects on schedule and within budget

(B) Maintain the state transportation system to protect the long term investment in our infrastructure assets

(C) Operate and manage Tennessee's transportation system to provide a high level of safety and service to our customers and workers

(D) Expanding mobility choices to maximize access

(E) Dramatically change the paradigm for delivery of transportation products and service to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Tennessee's transportation network

11. Please explain how the research supports the Long Range Transportation Plan Policy Recommendations **and/or** TDOT Operational Goals and/or Strategic Initiative selected above:

This research program would examine how other states better deliver their CMAQ and other funding programs to local partners and interested business partners. The project would ultimately result in an increase in the coordination, cooperation and consultation with these outside parties. Additionally, the project would help to ensure that projects are delivered on-time and on-budget in the various funding programs to ensure

that funds do not lapse. Finally, this would shift the current paradigm of the CMAQ program and its current risk of lapsing funds.

For additional information, please contact:

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