

# Getting the Answers You Need



## Research and Information Services Timeline

	Regional and National Research				Wisconsin Research			Legend
	Pooled Fund/UTC Projects	NCHRP Synthesis Projects	NCHRP Projects	WHRP and Policy Projects	Ongoing Services	Evaluation/Impacts		
Nov								↓ Submit problem statements
Dec		↓		↓	Research briefs	Quarterly reviews		
Jan			↓		Synthesis reports	Annual report		● Select projects
Feb			●		Literature searches	Quarterly reviews		
Mar				●	E-newsletters			≡ Develop work plans
Apr	↓				Peer exchanges	Quarterly reviews		
May	●				Internet training			\$\$ Funds available
Jun	●	●				Quarterly reviews		
Jul	≡	≡	≡	≡				
Aug	≡	≡	≡	≡				
Sep	≡	≡	≡	≡				
Oct	\$\$	\$\$	\$\$	\$\$		Quarterly reviews		

## For More Information

### State research

WisDOT Research and Library: [www.dot.wisconsin.gov/library/index.htm](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/library/index.htm)  
 Wisconsin Highway Research Program (WHRP): [www.whrp.org](http://www.whrp.org)  
 Traffic Operations and Safety Lab (TOPS): [www.topslab.wisc.edu](http://www.topslab.wisc.edu)  
 Construction and Materials Support Center: <http://cmssc.engr.wisc.edu>

### Regional research

Transportation Pooled Fund Program: [www.pooledfund.org](http://www.pooledfund.org)  
 Midwest Regional University Transportation Center (MRUTC): [www.mrutc.org](http://www.mrutc.org)  
 National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education (CFIRE): [www.wistrans.org/cfire](http://www.wistrans.org/cfire)

### National research

Transportation Research Board (TRB): [www.trb.org](http://www.trb.org)  
 National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP): [www.trb.org/crp/nchrp/nchrp.asp](http://www.trb.org/crp/nchrp/nchrp.asp)  
 Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP): [www.trb.org/crp/tcrp/tcrp.asp](http://www.trb.org/crp/tcrp/tcrp.asp)  
 Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP): [www.trb.org/crp/acrp/acrp.asp](http://www.trb.org/crp/acrp/acrp.asp)  
 National Cooperative Freight Research Program (NCFRP): [www.trb.org/crp/n CFRP/n CFRP.asp](http://www.trb.org/crp/n CFRP/n CFRP.asp)  
 Hazardous Materials Cooperative Research Program (HMCRRP): [www.trb.org/crp/hmcrp/hmcrp.asp](http://www.trb.org/crp/hmcrp/hmcrp.asp)

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# WisDOT Research and Information Services

WisDOT's Research & Library Unit manages a \$3.5 million research program focused on applied research—research to develop usable solutions to specific problems. From multiyear research projects to rapid-response information gathering, we provide services to customers across the entire department. Through innovation and exceptional service, we help create transportation solutions.

*Underdeck of the Walnut Street Bridge beams and center pier over I-43 in Milwaukee  
 Photo by WisDOT's Bob Wazniak*

## Contact Us!

Whether you're interested in a full-scale research project or a quick-turnaround synthesis of information, we can help you develop your ideas and get a project under way.

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## Research and Implementation

Every year, WisDOT Research selects and funds research and implementation projects across a range of subject areas, from highway materials and construction to multimodal policy research. We manage research projects within our state, participate in regional pooled fund projects with other states and contribute to national research efforts. WisDOT also supports collaborative research activities, such as the Traffic Operations and Safety Lab and the Construction and Materials Support Center. Please contact us anytime. We'll work to find the program that best meets your research needs.

### Wisconsin Highway Research Program

In action since 1998 and managed by UW-Madison, WHRP carries out research in five subject areas: asphalt pavement, concrete pavement, geotechnics, structures and data integration. Every fall we solicit research ideas from WisDOT staff in statewide bureaus and regional offices.



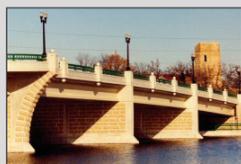
### WisDOT Policy Research Program

This new research program will fund policy-related projects across a range of subjects. The projects will focus on evaluating the technical merit of current policies and the impacts of those policies on safety, operations, the economy and more. New projects will be selected based on the top priorities of the department.

### Pooled Fund Program

This FHWA-sponsored research program allows states to pool their money to fund larger research projects of common interest. Every spring, the Research Program asks staff to nominate projects that WisDOT should help fund. See all current and completed pooled fund projects at [www.pooledfund.org](http://www.pooledfund.org).

### Research Impact



A bridge inspection guide produced through WHRP identifies 24 typical problems and

visual indicators of deterioration in concrete and steel structures in Wisconsin, linking these signs to 40 deterioration mechanisms and 42 appropriate non-destructive evaluation methods for assessment. WisDOT distributed the guide to its bridge inspectors, saving engineers time and maximizing treatment impact.

### Research Impact



A WisDOT-funded study compared the benefits of

transit systems with the costs of operating them. Researchers found that investing in transit will produce a return of over \$3 for each dollar spent at all potential state funding levels evaluated. They concluded that investing in transit in Wisconsin is economically worthwhile.

## Information Services

WisDOT Research can help you quickly and effectively access the information you need to do your job. From synthesizing available research and best practices to training WisDOT staff on finding information on the Internet, we're focused on providing you with quick-turnaround services to save time and money.

### Transportation Synthesis Reports

TSRs are brief reports that capture recent research and best practices on requested transportation topics. They help WisDOT staff learn from the experiences of other state DOTs, avoid duplicating research, identify new technologies and practices, make better investment decisions, and monitor federal guidelines and key transportation trends. Request a TSR on any subject anytime.

### TSR Impact

In a survey of WisDOT staff who had requested and received TSRs, 83% of respondents indicated they "had applied or anticipated applying information in a TSR to improve processes, make decisions, implement technology, or make changes."



### Training: Finding Transportation Information on the Internet

Our one-day, hands-on class will give you the tools you need to find transportation information online related to your professional responsibilities. Participants in our customized training sessions have included policy analysts, pavement engineers, environmental specialists and planners. Contact us to schedule a training session with your unit, section or bureau.

### E-Newsletters

We keep WisDOT staff informed about research results, practical applications of research in the field and related technology transfer opportunities. Contact us to receive an electronic or print version of our newsletters.

### Literature Searches

WisDOT's Research Program and Library both conduct targeted keyword searches to identify completed research on topics requested by WisDOT technical staff.

### Peer Exchanges

To help WisDOT staff learn from other agencies' best practices, the Research Program provides planning and logistical support, travel expenses, and reporting services for WisDOT-hosted peer exchanges.

#### What is a peer exchange?

- Two- to four-day conference in Madison hosted by WisDOT
- Gathering of WisDOT staff, peers from other states (five to seven) and FHWA
- Presentations, discussions, roundtables—an intense and rewarding information exchange

Peer exchange topics have included real estate issues, indirect and cumulative impacts of transportation projects, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise programs, and research management.

Contact us to find out how you can take advantage of this valuable service.

### Peer Exchange Impact



Peer exchanges are great opportunities for gathering new ideas, networking with peers nationally and involving WisDOT managers in strategic planning for your group. Virtually all of the participants surveyed about their peer exchange experiences have rated them "extremely valuable."