

MOVING FORWARD



“He who does not look ahead, remains behind.” (Spanish Proverb)

Ohio Department of Transportation, Office of Research and Development

Fall 2003

Research Through Pooled Fund Studies

When research is proposed that may be of regional or national interest, a pooled fund study can be used to jointly fund research, planning, and technology innovation activities, giving all the partners more value per dollar. Any federal or state transportation agency can initiate a pooled fund study through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Once a pooled fund is established, local and regional transportation agencies, private industry, foundations and universities may join in the partnership with the sponsoring agency.

A pooled fund study led by Ohio operates similarly to one of our standard research projects with the exception of a few additional steps in the initial stages. First, the sponsoring office develops a problem statement and may informally contact other states or agencies to determine if there is sufficient interest to set up a pooled fund study. If other agencies indicate interest, the problem statement is submitted to our office to be posted on a national Transportation Pooled Fund (TPF) website to solicit further interest and to allow participating states to make online commitments to the study. If sufficient interest is found, the Office of Research and Development requests approval from FHWA to formally establish the study as a pooled fund and allow states to use 100% SP&R (State Planning & Research) funds. R&D manages the project, maintains the contract, and handles billing and payments as usual.



The TPF website is sponsored by the FHWA and is a valuable, comprehensive resource that solicits national interest in pooled fund studies, monitors the progress of the studies, and reports the results. To check out current pooled fund studies, please see <http://www.pooledfund.org/>.

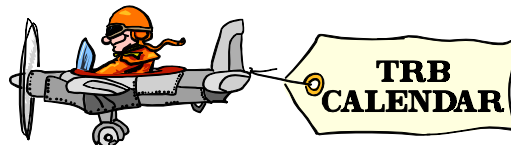
Upcoming TRB Conferences and Workshops

September 7-10, 2003

International Conference on Highway Pavement Performance,
Data Analysis, and Design Applications

<http://webce.ent.ohiou.edu/ICHP.html>

Columbus, Ohio



September 9-12, 2003

Community Impact Assessment: Putting It All in Context

<http://www.in.gov/dot/programs/CIASWorkshop.html>

Indianapolis, Indiana

September 17-19, 2003

Tenth National Highway/Utility Conference

<http://www.natlconference.com/>

Orlando, Florida

September 23, 2003

Symposium on Performance of Rock Anchors (*by invitation*)

<http://www.aot.state.vt.us/HighwayGeoSymposium/home.htm>

Burlington, Vermont

September 29-30, 2003

5th National Conference on Asset Management - Moving from Theory to Practice

<http://gulliver.trb.org/conferences/Asset/default.htm>

Atlanta, Georgia

January 11-15, 2004

Transportation Research Board 83rd Annual Meeting

<http://www4.nationalacademies.org/trb/annual.nsf>

Washington, D.C.

**Comprehending
Engineers**

To the optimist, the glass is half full.
To the pessimist, the glass is half empty.
To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as
it needs to be.

2004 OPREP Study



The ODOT Partnered Research Exploration Program (OPREP) has selected its first study. This year's study, titled "Airborne LIDAR: A New Source of Traffic Flow Data", is timely in that it leverages several ongoing efforts – ODOT Aerial Engineering needs, ODOT ITS and Technical Services needs, and National Consortium for Remote Sensing in Transportation programs.

LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) is an airborne laser scanning system that, once installed in an aircraft, can deliver surface data at decimeter-level vertical accuracy.

It can be used to measure distance, speed, rotation, and chemical composition or concentration of a remote target. ODOT has been investigating the use of LIDAR to look at pavement surface data, but in that case, vehicles on the road represent obstructions to the LIDAR pulses sent to reflect off the pavement, and the data must be processed to remove the vehicle signals. The selected OPREP study will use the LIDAR data as is, including the vehicle signals, to investigate the feasibility of extracting traffic flow information from data collected over transportation corridors. Parameters to be investigated include vehicle identification, classification, and velocity estimation. In addition, the feasibility of real-time data extraction for real-time traffic management will be addressed.

The OPREP program is funded by money set aside specifically to address relevant, innovative research needs that may not have been previously identified by ODOT. The program encourages partnerships among agencies while leveraging both funds and resources. For more information on OPREP, please visit <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/divplan/research/newsletter/jan2003.pdf>. The study is being performed by Dr. Dorota Grejner-Brzezinska, Dr. Charles Toth, and Dr. Mark McCord of the Ohio State University.

Otec 2003: Keeping Transportation Safe, Secure & Reliable in the New Economy

The 57th annual Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference (Otec) will be held November 5-6, 2003. The theme of the conference aims to ensure that Ohio has a modern system of roads, capable of moving people and goods safely and efficiently, aiding economic rebound and growth. The latest policy and technical information, as well as new ideas from throughout the transportation industry, will be addressed. Over 140 presenters are scheduled to speak at 54 breakout sessions in the areas of Structures, Pavements & Materials, Traffic, Administration & Management, Safety, Multi-Modal Planning & Environmental Issues, Construction, and Infrastructure Assurance.

This year will be the first time Otec hosts a Job Fair. Students and industry representatives will be able to schedule interview times during the conference. Detailed information on this opportunity will be included with registration information sent to universities and exhibitors.

For more information on Otec, please see www.otecohio.org.



Calendar of Events

September - 2003

September 7-10 - International Conference on Highway Pavement Performance, Data Analysis, and Design Applications - For more information go to <http://webce.ent.ohio.edu/ICHP.html>

October - 2003

Quarterly progress reports due on all active research projects

November - 2003

November 5-6 - OTEC 2003 - For additional information contact Terri Barnhart via email at terri.barnhart@dot.state.oh.us

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