



ODOT PARTNERED RESEARCH EXPLORATION PROGRAM (OPREP) PROBLEM STATEMENT FORMAT

OPREP problem statements should not exceed six pages in length, not including appendixes, and should be stapled. Pages must be consecutively numbered with 1-inch margins on all sides. Text should be no less than 10-point font size with 1.5 line spacing. The following sections must be included in the problem statement in the order given.

Problem Title

The title of the research study should be descriptive, but brief (10 words or less)

Problem Statement

Describe the general problem or research need. Be explicit about how the intended research product will be used and by whom.

(Note: A TRIS Online literature search <<http://ntl.bts.gov/tris>> is encouraged to avoid duplication of existing or past research. If a literature search is performed, a bibliography and general comments on the results should be provided.)

Research Objective

Provide a statement of the specific research objective, defined in terms of the expected final product. Describe the scope of work including specific tasks necessary to achieve the objective. Provide enough detail to clearly state the objective and expectations.

Funding and Partnerships

Provide an estimate of the funds necessary to accomplish the objectives stated above. The proposing research agency must provide a match of the requesting OPREP funds. This must be at least, but may be more than, a 50/50 match with no more than half of the matching funds coming from in-kind donations. The budget must clearly display the matching funds.

At least one other partner, unaffiliated with the proposing agency, must be identified and their role clearly defined. A letter on agency letterhead, signed by an individual authorized to contractually bind the partnering agency, must be included with the problem statement. This letter should describe the agency's partnership agreement, including funding commitments.

Duration

An estimate of the number of months needed for the research effort. This cannot exceed 15 months, which includes three months for review of the draft final report and preparation of the final report.

Urgency, Payoff Potential and Benefits

Describe the urgency of this particular research in relation to highway transportation needs in general and the potential for payoff (in terms of benefits/costs, if possible) from achievement of the research objectives. Enumerate and discuss the benefits anticipated from the research findings, e.g. money saved; improved safety, quality or efficiency; advancement of the state of technology, etc.

