

OPREP 2005 - CALL FOR PROBLEM STATEMENTS

The Ohio Department of Transportation's Office of Research and Development is now accepting problem statements for the ODOT Partnered Research Exploration Program (OPREP). This is the second year for the OPREP Program, which was created to:

- ◆ Consider relevant transportation research needs that may not have been identified by ODOT and included in our Strategic Research Plan.
- ◆ Encourage genuine partnerships within the research community.
- ◆ Recognize that while ODOT research needs are primarily of an applied nature, support of some basic research is critical to the long-term success of transportation research.
- ◆ Provide an opportunity to demonstrate the viability of innovative concepts and their potential to address long-range transportation needs.
- ◆ Leverage research funds and resources.

\$100,000 is available for fiscal year 2005 for OPREP projects. Depending on the estimated budgets of the OPREP problem statements, funds may be awarded to one or more projects.

To qualify as an OPREP project, the duration of the project must be no longer than 15 months, which includes 3 months for the review of a draft final report and preparation of the final report. The proposing research agency is required to provide a minimum 50/50 match of the funds requested from ODOT. No more than one-half of the matching funds can come from in-kind donations from the proposing agency. Tuition and fees for graduate students cannot be used as a cash match; however, salaries, stipends and benefits paid to these students can be used as cash matching funds. Salaries, wages, and benefits for all other research personnel and their subcontractors are considered in-kind matching funds. Overhead/indirect costs and fees are considered in-kind contributions. Discounts on purchases are considered in-kind contributions. Expenses incurred prior to the start date of the contract are ineligible for consideration as matching funds. Depreciation on equipment, etc. is ineligible for consideration as matching funds. At least one other partner unaffiliated with the proposing agency must agree to support the project. All partnership agreements and funding commitments need to be established before a problem statement is submitted. Time extensions may be granted for an OPREP project; however, no funding extensions are permissible.

Formatting requirements for OPREP problem statements can be obtained from our website (<http://www.dot.state.oh.us/divplan/research/Announcements/Announcements.htm>). Noncompliance with these guidelines will disqualify the submission from consideration for the program. The Department reserves the right to reject any or all submittals.

The deadline for OPREP consideration for fiscal year 2005 is **receipt by 4:30PM on March 26, 2004**. Absolutely no extensions will be granted to this deadline. All items *received after* 4:30 PM on March 26, 2004 will not be considered for fiscal year 2005, but will be held for consideration for fiscal year 2006. Submissions should be directed to the following address

Ohio Department of Transportation
Office of Research & Development
ATTN: Monique Evans
1980 W. Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43223

Submissions may also be made via email to research@dot.state.oh.us. Announcement of OPREP awards for fiscal year 2005 will be made by May 28, 2004.

If you have any questions about the OPREP program or the problem statement requirements, please feel free to contact our office at 614-644-8135 or via email at research@dot.state.oh.us. The OPREP program is available to anyone who is interested in performing transportation related research, so please feel free to share this information with fellow researchers.

COOPERATIVE RESEARCH SEMINAR 2004

ODOT's Cooperative Research Seminar is a seminar held biennially to present and exchange ideas on the Department's strategic research plan. Representatives from ODOT, FHWA, academia, private corporations, industry, county engineers, and various professional organizations are being invited to this seminar to exchange ideas on ODOT's strategic research plan.

The department's focus is on enhancing organizational maturity by defining measures and creating systems to guarantee success of our Vision. Consistent methodical concentration on our core business using the tools of research, technology and innovation will continue to be our strategy for improvement. During the seminar the Department's 10-year strategic research plan will be presented along with the 5-year project matrices for each of our divisions/offices. At the conclusion of the seminar, we hope to have identified any major gaps in our long-term focus areas. Problem statements for the 5-year matrices will be modified or supplemented as needed to address these gaps. We also hope to examine the relevancy, potential payoff and partnership opportunities for accomplishing our research goals. This seminar will allow us to gain valuable input from the research community to help refine our research efforts.

For more information and registration, please go to our website at: <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/divplan/research>

YOU MIGHT BE AN ENGINEER...

If your spouse sends you an e-mail instead of calling you to dinner
If you look forward to Christmas only to put together the kids' toys
If you use a CAD package to design your son's Pine Wood Derby car
If you have "Dilbert" comics displayed anywhere in your work area
If you carry on a one-hour debate over the expected results of a test that actually takes five minutes to run
If you have modified your can-opener to be microprocessor driven
If you have ever saved the power cord from a broken appliance
If the salespeople at Circuit City can't answer any of your questions
If you still own a slide rule and you know how to use it
If you have a habit of destroying things in order to see how they work
If you can remember seven computer passwords but not your anniversary
If your checkbook always balances
If you've ever tried to repair a \$5.00 radio
If you know what http:// stands for (bonus points if you actually care)
If your lap-top computer costs more than your car



Calendar of Events

February - 2004

February 18 - The Ohio Asphalt Paving Conference -
For more information visit http://www.flexiblepavements.org/Cal_PDF/oapc2004.pdf

March - 2004

March 1 - Training for Researchers over the RD&T² Manual of Procedures - For more information visit <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/divplan/research>

March 2 - Cooperative Research Seminar 2004 - For more information visit <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/divplan/research>

March 21 - Deadline for OTEC 2004 abstracts - For more information visit <http://www.otecohio.org>

March 26 - Deadline for OPREP 2005 problem statements - For more information visit <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/divplan/Announcements/Announcements.htm>
[Cal_PDF/oapc2004.pdf](http://www.dot.state.oh.us/divplan/Announcements/Cal_PDF/oapc2004.pdf)

April - 2004

April 30 - Quarterly Reports due for all active research projects