VERMONT
AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION

FACT SHEET

Value of VTrans Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis

PROJECT TITLE
Value of VTrans Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis

STUDY TIMELINE
October 2021 – August 2022

INVESTIGATORS
Dr. Greg Rowangould
University of Vermont, TRC
gregory.rowangould@uvm.edu

Mitchell Robinson
University of Vermont, TRC
mitchell.robinson@uvm.edu

VTRANS CONTACTS
Dr. Emily Parkany
Research Manager
emily.parkany@vermont.gov

Tanya Miller
Research Engineer
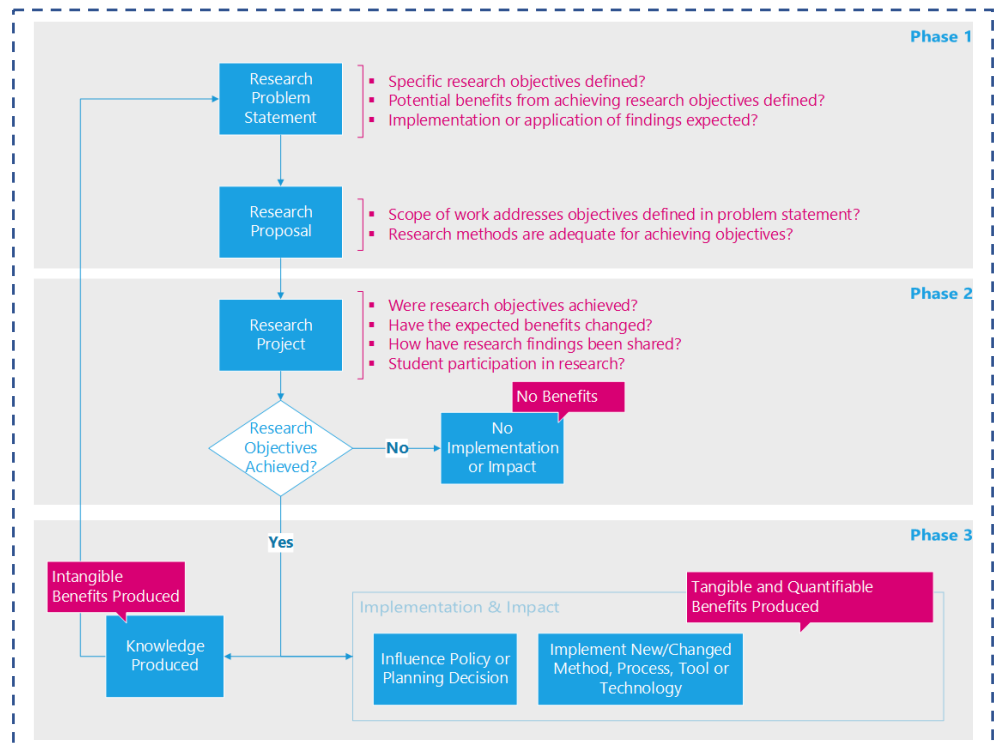tanya.miller@vermont.gov

KEYWORDS
Research, Evaluation

FUNDING
Vermont Agency of Transportation

More information about the VTrans Research Program, including additional Fact Sheets, can be found at: http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/research

Introduction

Assessing the value of publicly funded research is important to justify agency research budgets, enhance accountability and improve program management. However, estimating the value of research is extremely challenging. This research aimed to create a simple and practical research assessment tool.

Methodology

Through a review of prior research evaluation studies and recently completed external research projects, we developed a simple and flexible assessment framework and associated spreadsheet tool that can be implemented with limited resources. The assessment framework collects qualitative data about the purpose, benefits and potential uses of each research project and tracks progress from research idea generation to eventual implementation (see above diagram).

Next Steps

The research assessment tool provided to VTrans can be used to begin collecting information about current and future projects and tracking performance and outcomes over time.

Potential Impacts and VTrans Benefits

The data collected by applying our assessment framework allows for the systematic evaluation of how expected research benefits and uses change from research initiation to eventual implementation as well as issues that affect project success and implementation. This information can help VTrans discuss the value of its research program, improve the design and management of its program, and identify barriers to implementation and application of research findings.