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AOT Research--

How You Can Get Involved

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TRANSPORTATION

External Research Project Cycle

1. Research Idea
2. Champion Assembles Research Problem Statement
3. Research Problem Statements Distributed to Qualified Researcher List
4. Champion Selects from Letters of Interest
5. Researchers Prepare 10-Page Proposal
6. Champion Presents Project to AOT Selection Meeting—mostly AOT Bureau Directors
7. Researchers Conduct Research
8. Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) Guide Projects
(Project Benefits and Implementation)
9. Implementation

Qualified Researcher List

- ❖ Working with Contract Administration
- ❖ Solicit a new list every two years—this November-December.
- ❖ QRLs submit small package: cover letter with Technical Contact and Financial Contact, a few research ideas, describe a few past projects, up to 10 resumes
- ❖ Universities and consultants
- ❖ Only orgs on QRL get AOT external research problem statements



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Research Idea



- ❖ November-December solicitations for research ideas that can be conducted by an External Research Project
- ❖ We want ideas that someone on our Qualified Researcher List can help with
- ❖ External Research Projects are 6 to 24 months long; \$40,000-\$150,000 in value
- ❖ Ideas that benefit AOT and that we are eager to implement
- ❖ Projects need to be matched with an AOT Champion

Internal Research

- ❖ AOT staff can approach us any time of year with an Internal research idea
 - ❖ Help with literature review/next steps
 - ❖ With FHWA Division Office approval
 - ❖ Small amount of federal funds for your staff to use to conduct research
 - ❖ Experimental Feature Project
 - ❖ Part of identified federal aid project
 - ❖ Requires reporting and monitoring over 3-5 years
 - ❖ FHWA will replace with traditional if necessary
- ❖ AOT Research staff can help you, but we no longer conduct research ourselves

Champions

- ❖ Non-Bureau Director-level staff can be a Champion with supervisor's permission
- ❖ All Research ideas have to be matched to a Champion
- ❖ Champions generate Research Problem Statements
- ❖ Champions select from Letters of Interest
- ❖ Champions work with selected research team on a 10-page proposal
- ❖ Champions present project to Bureau Director selection committee
- ❖ Champions identify Technical Advisory Committee
- ❖ Monitor the project, work with research team, review deliverables, approve invoice payments

Technical Advisory Committee

- ❖ All External Research Projects have TACs which meet 2-12 times a year
- ❖ Champion, additional AOT staff (multiple Bureaus), additional SOV staff, Regional Planning Commissions, Towns, others
- ❖ More TAC members mean more guidance for the project, more identification of benefits and more use of the project results
- ❖ TAC members guide projects, review deliverables

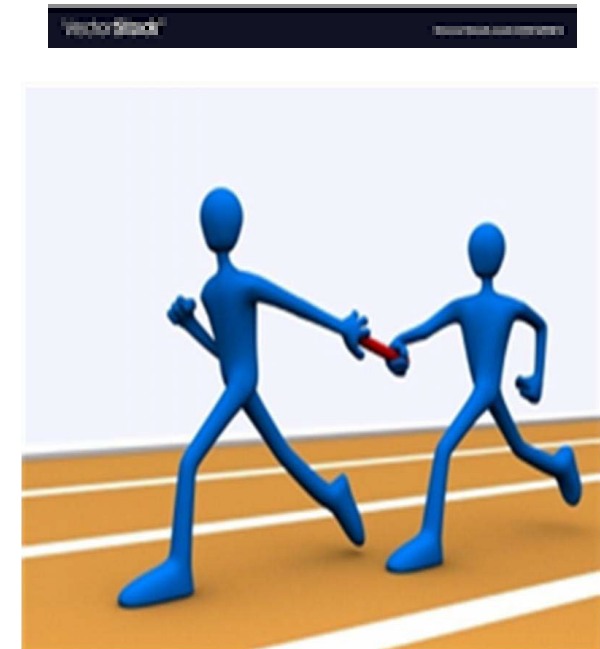
Identifying Project Benefits



- ❖ Describe how AOT Benefits from each project
 - ❖ Part of the selection process
 - ❖ Part of project kickoff meeting
 - ❖ Revisited periodically
- ❖ New pre-meeting Benefits/implementation survey
 - ❖ What type of improvement will this project accomplish?
 - ❖ How will this research make things easier?
 - ❖ Who are the stakeholders for this research?
 - ❖ What do you think that the benefits will be?
 - ❖ How do you plan to use the results of this project?

Implementation

- ❖ Use of project results → Implementation!
- ❖ Larger TAC, more people engaged with project → Implementation
- ❖ Learn about a project/use the project
- ❖ Not all projects are implemented
 - ❖ Maybe we found out existing process is better than the researched process/no cost savings/too big of a change
 - ❖ Maybe the Champion retires
 - ❖ Project does not include revise spec language or ultimate implementers not involved in project
 - ❖ Spearheading a Barriers to Innovation national project





(Summary)

- ❖ Get on our Qualified Researcher List
- ❖ Submit a research idea
- ❖ Be a Champion
- ❖ Serve on a Technical Advisory Board
- ❖ Attend the Annual AOT Research and Innovation Symposium
 - ❖ Become familiar with projects
 - ❖ Identify how we can use the project results

Why Attend the Symposium?

- ❖ You're already here!
- ❖ Share info about our Research and Innovation projects!
- ❖ **Learn about the projects and how you can use the projects**
- ❖ Refine your research ideas
- ❖ You can be a Champion or serve on a Technical Advisory Committee

2022 HYBRID RESEARCH & INNOVATION
Poster Symposium

Thank you!

QUESTIONS?

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