

Value of VTrans Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis

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Research Assessment and Valuation Challenges

- Systematic collection of research project objectives, their alignment with agency goals and extent to which objectives are accomplished,
- Valuation of “basic research” and intangible benefits including knowledge creation and workforce development,
- Gap in time between applied research findings, implementation and when benefits may be observed,
- Limited resources for collecting data required for using existing economic assessment tools, and
- Challenges in economic valuation of environmental and social benefits.

Research Problem Statement

- Specific research objectives defined?
- Potential benefits from achieving research objectives defined?
- Implementation or application of findings expected?

Research Proposal

- Scope of work addresses objectives defined in problem statement?
- Research methods are adequate for achieving objectives?

Research Project

- Were research objectives achieved?
- Have the expected benefits changed?
- How have research findings been shared?
- Student participation in research?

Research Objectives Achieved?

No

No Benefits
No Implementation or Impact

Yes

Intangible Benefits Produced

Knowledge Produced

Implementation & Impact

Influence Policy or Planning Decision

Implement New/Changed Method, Process, Tool or Technology

Tangible and Quantifiable Benefits Produced

Recommended Research Assessment Framework

- Simple and Flexible,
- Works for quantitative and qualitative outcomes,
- Addresses common barriers to systematic evaluation of projects and research programs, and
- Implemented as a simple MS Excel workbook.

