

DRISI

CALTRANS DIVISION OF RESEARCH,
INNOVATION AND SYSTEM INFORMATION

Research Notes

Maintenance

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Project Title:
Western Maintenance Partnership

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Western Maintenance Partnership - Phase 3 TPF-5(394)

The purpose of the pooled fund is to provide a partnering forum for promoting effective maintenance strategies.

WHAT IS THE NEED?

In the 1980s, the Rocky Mountain Maintenance Tour established a highly effective forum for the exchange of information, techniques, policies, and strategies for the maintenance of Highway Systems. Since that time, the role of Maintenance as a critical element in the overall management of State Highway infrastructure has increased. Most Maintenance Managers have been replaced since the Rocky Mountain Maintenance Tour ended.

The primary focus has also shifted from new construction and major rehabilitation to infrastructure preservation and asset management via cost effective maintenance. Reactive maintenance alone is not adequate to overcome the challenges of rapidly deteriorating roads, especially considering the age of the nation's highway infrastructure and growing economic constraints. There is a need for states to work together to find solutions to common problems.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

This pooled fund will combine the efforts of participating agencies to provide a focused look at maintenance and will partner with Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (WASHTO) states to share experiences, innovations, expertise, and solutions to the complex management of highway assets.

Maintenance issues include policies, practices, specifications, field investigations, applied research, materials, and training. It is expected that a roundtable and sharing of field experience via hands on demonstration of features will be key elements of the annual meetings.



DRISI provides solutions and knowledge that improves California's transportation system

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

The goal of this pooled fund is to provide a highly effective forum for promoting effective maintenance strategies by:

- Having an annual meeting and a multi-day annual workshop/scan tour for discussion and exchange of information and knowledge about each state's maintenance program.
- Providing a means to define, support, and share technology of mutual interest.
- Conducting formal training presentations during the annual workshop.
- Providing support for special studies, investigations, research, and training.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

For a minimal investment, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will tap into a vast wealth of knowledge and experience other states have accumulated. Applicable materials, methods, and equipment identified will be considered for incorporation into Caltrans' business operations. It will improve operations to be more efficient, reduce costs, increase safety, and provide better experiences for California's travelling public.

WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

The contractor continued preparations for the next WASHTO Standing Committee on Maintenance in Boise, Idaho. The event is in-person and scheduled for August 13-16, 2023. The conference agenda is being finalized and a web site has been created for the event.

Additionally, plans continue for a scanning tour led by Washington Department of Transportation to discuss, observe, and address lessons learned regarding homeless camps, and what Departments of Transportation can do to be more successful in dealing with them. The event is planned for early 2024 in the Tacoma/Seattle area.

For additional information, contact the Task Manager.