



Caltrans Division of Research,
Innovation and System Information

Research



Notes



Maintenance

JANUARY - MARCH 2020

Project Title:
Western Maintenance Partnership
TPF-5(312)

Task Number: 2842

Start Date: July 1, 2014

Completion Date: June 30, 2019

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Western Maintenance Partnership Pooled Fund

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

WHAT IS THE NEED?

In the 1980's, 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.



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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.
- Receiving 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?

This pooled fund has ended, and work has resumed under a new pooled fund. This pooled fund is closing and no further updates will be made to these research notes.