



Caltrans Division of Research,
Innovation and System Information

Research



Results



Maintenance

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Project Title:

Western Maintenance Partnership

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Western Maintenance Partnership TPF-5(312)

The pooled fund provided a partnering forum for promoting effective maintenance strategies.

WHAT WAS 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 had increased, but most maintenance managers had been replaced since the Rocky Mountain Maintenance Tour ended.

The primary focus had also shifted from new construction and major rehabilitation to infrastructure preservation and asset management via cost effective maintenance. Reactive maintenance alone was 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 was a need for states to work together to find solutions to common problems.

WHAT WAS OUR GOAL?

The goal of this pooled fund was 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.



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integrated and efficient transportation
system to enhance California's
economy and livability.



WHAT DID WE DO?

This pooled fund combined the efforts of participating agencies to provide a focused look at maintenance and partnered with the 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 included policies, practices, specifications, field investigations, applied research, materials, and training. Hands on demonstration of features was a key element of the annual meetings.

WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

This pooled fund met its stated objective of providing an effective forum for states to interact and share accumulated knowledge and experience for the benefit of all involved. The effort will continue under a newly established pooled fund.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

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