Advancing Practice in State DOTs from Good to Great

Building on the success of forums in 2000 and 2003, NCHRP Project Panel 20-24 is funding a third forum that will give state DOT CEOs (department of transportation chief executive officers) and their top staff the opportunity to share experiences with their peers. Current practices in three issue areas in selected state DOTs will be synthesized in white papers in advance, discussed at the forum, and then finalized as resources. Participants will also recommend needed research, training, and information activities.

A Discussion of Issues and Practices

Discussion at the forum will be centered on the following three themes:

- Evolving roles and partnerships in program delivery and system operations
- Building credibility with customers and stakeholders
- Next steps in finance and funding

The forum will begin Sunday afternoon and evening with presentations on the three themes and with social time.

Participants will address the following questions during interactive dialogue on Monday:

- Challenges: What are your leadership and political challenges in dealing with these themes?
- Strategies: What strategies and tools have you and your organization used that have helped you succeed in these areas?
- Actions: What research, training, and information are needed to strengthen your and your organization’s capabilities in these areas?

On Tuesday, other state DOT staff and attendees will develop recommendations for refining good practice for each theme and identify needed actions and research based on the Monday discussions.

Who Should Attend

Each state DOT CEO will receive an invitation to attend the forum and to bring an additional representative from his or her organization. Invitations and registration forms from AASHTO President Harold Linnenkohl will be sent to each CEO.

The presence of the CEOs will be critical for the discussions on Sunday and Monday. While the sponsors welcome their participation throughout the entire forum, schedules may require CEOs to leave Monday night. It is important that the second representative from each state be able to attend Tuesday’s working sessions, which will identify and prioritize the action items that come out of the discussions.

---

Preliminary Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday, September 24: Setting the Stage</th>
<th>Monday, September 25: Sharing Good Practices</th>
<th>Tuesday, September 26: Advancing from Good to Great</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00 – 5:00 p.m. Registration</td>
<td>7:30 – 10:00 a.m. Registration</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m. Welcome and Forum Charge</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. Forum Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:20 p.m. Speaker Presentations:</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. Overview of the Day</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roles and Partnerships</td>
<td>8:15 a.m. CEO Session 1: Roles and Partnerships</td>
<td>9:20 a.m. Work Groups Action Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Lockwood, Principal Consultant, PB Consult</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. Break</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. Lunch and Work Groups Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customers and Stakeholders</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. CEO Session 2: Customers and Stakeholders</td>
<td>1:30 p.m. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcy Schwartz, Senior Vice President, Director of Transportation Technology, CH2M Hill</td>
<td>12:15 p.m. Lunch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance and Funding</td>
<td>1:30 p.m. CEO Session 3: Finance and Funding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lance Gratebeake, Senior Vice President, Cambridge Systematics</td>
<td>3:15 p.m. Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m. Reception</td>
<td>3:45 p.m. Summary Discussion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 p.m. Dinner and Speaker Presentation</td>
<td>4:30 p.m. Reception</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Activities Since 2003 CEO Leadership Forum

Many NCHRP, FHWA, and state pooled-fund projects resulted from the last forum. Examples are given below.

Strategic Leadership

- NCHRP Project 20-24(38): CEO Engagement Options for Discussing Strategic Issues and Sharing Best Practices. Project is complete and report is posted on the NCHRP Website.

- NCHRP Project 20-24(37): Measuring Performance Among State DOTs. Project is complete and report is in final review.

- NCHRP Project 20-24(36): Updating AASHTO's Strategic Plan. Work contributed to the development of the Strategic Plan, now on the AASHTO Website.

Program Delivery

- NCHRP Project 20-24(39): Alternative Organizational Designs for State Transportation Departments. Project will address organizational designs to improve strategy, delivery, and operations, expected completion in December 2006.

- NCHRP Project 20-24(40): Innovative Contracting for Major Transportation Projects. Selected state DOT executives shared experiences at a workshop held in conjunction with the 2005 AASHTO annual meeting. The summary report has been provided to AASHTO.

- NCHRP Project 20-68: U.S. Domestic Scan Program. One of two initial pilot scans will look at accelerating project delivery, focusing on ROW and utility activities.

System Operations

- NCHRP Project 20-24(35): Communicating Urban Congestion Information. This active project is improving the methods and utility of the congestion rating indexes used by the Texas Transportation Institute.


- NCHRP Project 20-7 Task 185: Mainstreaming Operations in State DOTs. Organized in cooperation with FHWA, a June 2005 workshop developed a business plan for advancing the implementation of operations activities and programs within state DOTs through peer-to-peer exchange activities.