

Transportation Synthesis Report Program

Washington State Department of Transportation Office of Research and Library Services

What are transportation synthesis reports?

The WSDOT transportation synthesis reports (TSR's) grew out of interest of WSDOT Executives and Program Managers for "just-in-time" summaries of state of the practice information and literature searches on topics of prime interest. WSDOT's Synthesis Program is based on a [similar effort](#) of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Research and Library Services Office.

Transportation Synthesis Reports (TSR's) are brief summaries of currently available information on topics of interest to WSDOT staff. Online and print sources may include newspaper and periodical articles, NCHRP and other TRB programs, AASHTO, the research and practices of other state DOT's and related academic and industry research. State of the practice information may include quick surveys of all other DOTs or phone interviews with select states. Internet hyperlinks in the TSR's are active at the time of publication, but host server changes can make them obsolete.

What types of projects qualify as a transportation synthesis report?

A qualifying transportation synthesis report is a summary similar to an annotated bibliography of the most current published and current periodical media on a specific topic. The TSR's are not intended to be an extension of existing staff duties or functions. The report is not an in-depth analysis of the topic subject, but a compilation of information materials with some explanation. A completed synthesis takes 2-3 month time, but shorter deadlines we can accommodate shorter timeframes with the understanding that information covered may be constrained. Examples of potential research topics suitable as a synthesis include but are not limited to:

- Specific topics concerning transportation issues
- Research on methods and procedures that other organizations use on a particular transportation topic
- Qualitative surveys of other state DOT's processes or procedures
- A compilation of approaches to transportation problems or issues and solutions and suggested approaches.

How are projects selected?

WSDOT Senior Management requests synthesis projects through Leni Oman, Director, Office of Research and Library Services, or through Kathy Lindquist, Research Manager, and Synthesis Program lead.

How do I get a research synthesis report started?

If you have a research need through a Synthesis, please contact Kathy. An editor at Washington State University (WSU) Washington State Transportation Center (TRAC) is available to prepare synthesis requests.

To conduct a TSR, the following information is required:

1. Describe the research topic in specific terms and give as much background as possible.
2. The date a final synthesis product is completed.
3. Any related terms or sources of information that may be useful.

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