



Expediting Project Delivery Webinar - Streamlining Decision Making in Project Delivery

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March 23, 2016



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF STATE HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS

AASHTO

SHRP2 & Its Focus Areas



Safety: Fostering safer driving through analysis of driver, roadway and vehicle factors in crashes, near crashes, and ordinary driving.



Renewal: Rapid maintenance and repair of the deteriorating infrastructure using already-available resources, innovations, and technologies.

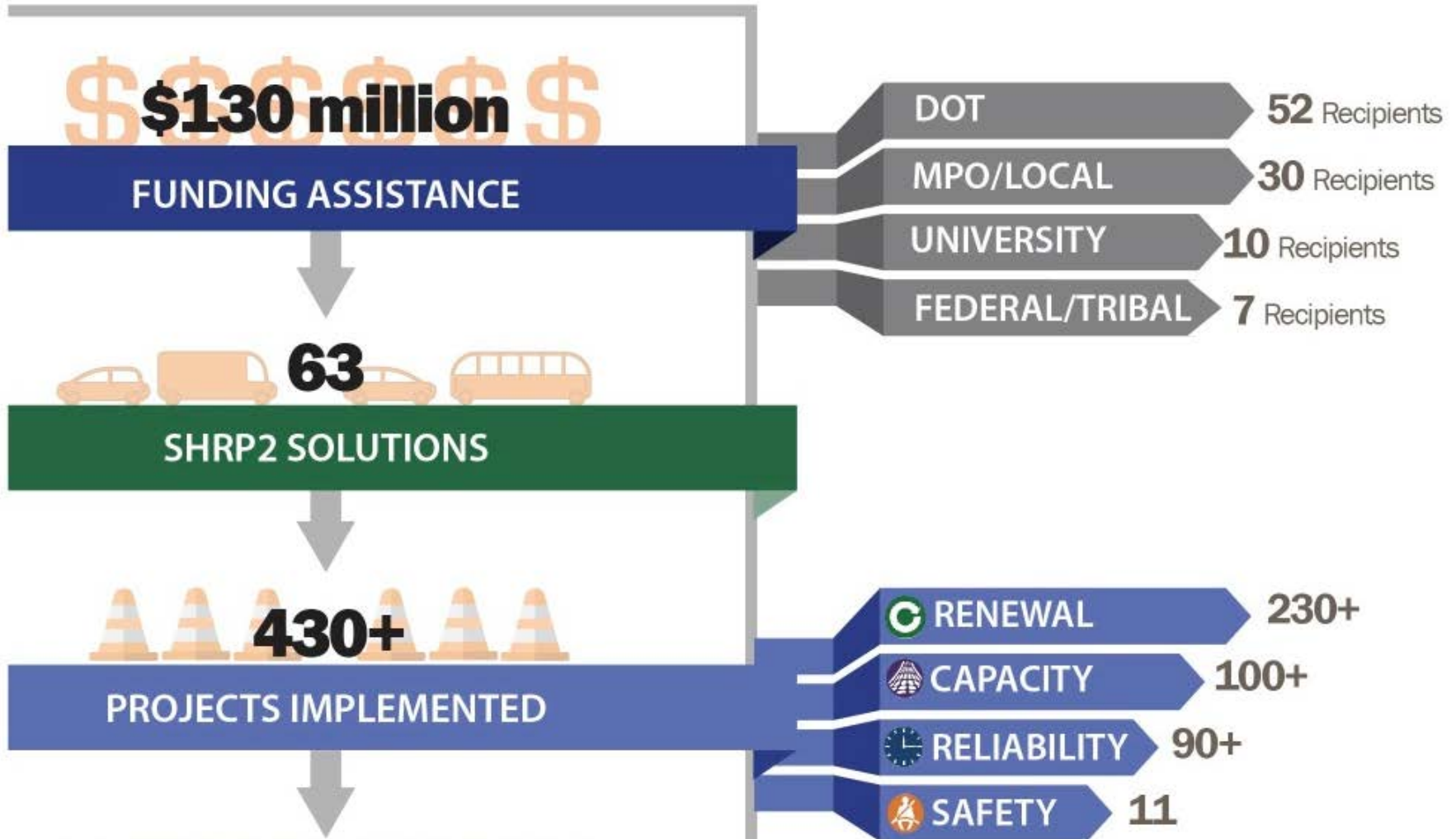


Capacity: Planning and designing a highway system that offers minimum disruption and meets the environmental, and economic needs of the community.

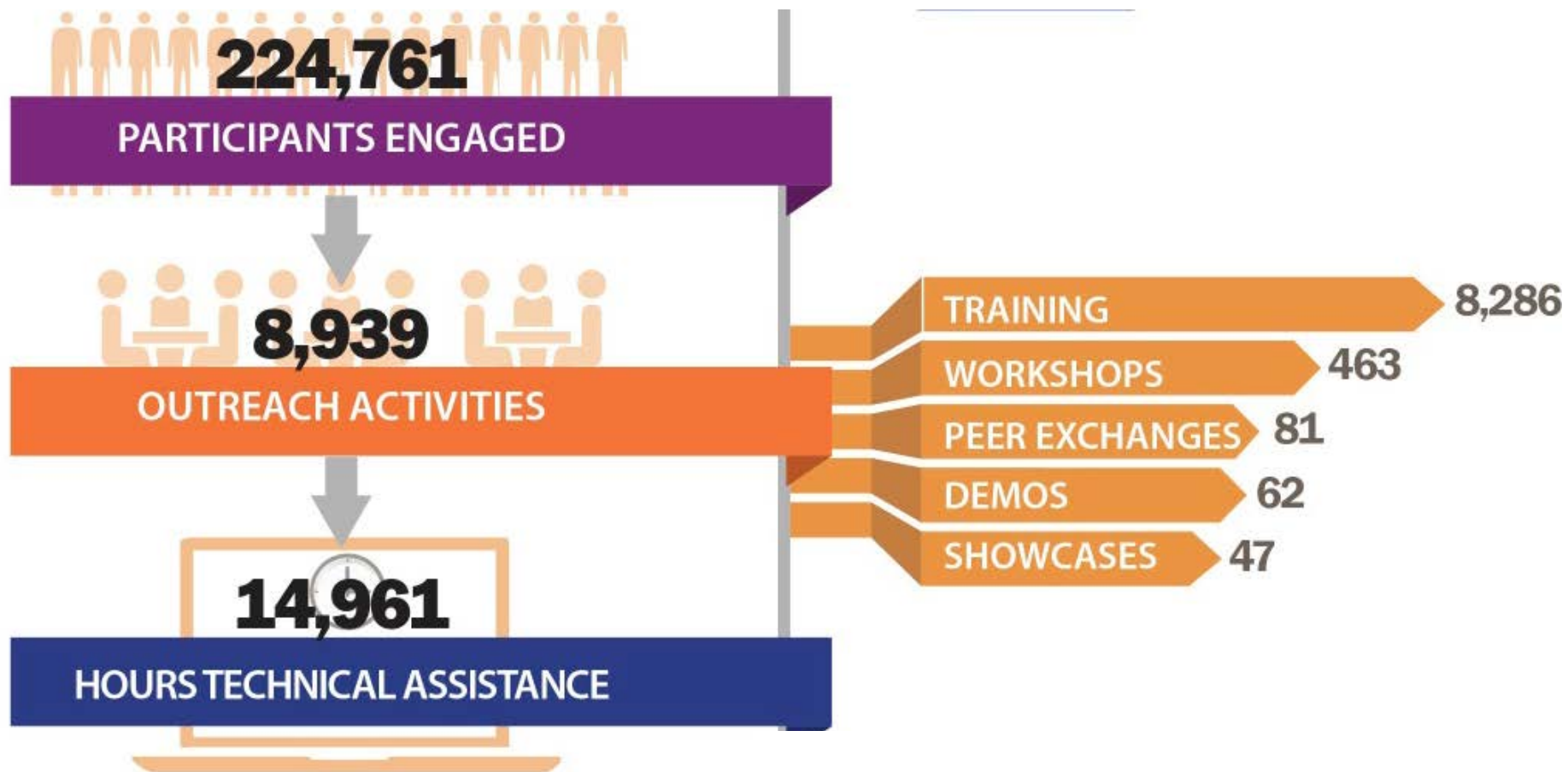


Reliability: Reducing congestion and creating more predictable travel times through better operations.

SHRP2 Implementation: INNOVATE.IMPLEMENT.IMPROVE.



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SHRP2 at a Glance

- **SHRP2 Solutions** – 63 products
- **Solution Development** – processes, software, testing procedures, and specifications
- **Field Testing** – refined in the field
- **Implementation** – 430+ transportation projects; adopt as standard practice
- **SHRP2 Education Connection** – connecting next-generation professionals with next-generation innovations



13 agencies were selected to implement C19 strategies.

Expediting Project Delivery



- *Expediting Project Delivery* identifies 24 strategies for addressing or avoiding 16 common constraints in order to speed delivery of transportation projects.
- Strategies Grouped Under Six Objectives:
 - Improve internal communication and coordination;
 - Streamline decision-making;
 - Improve resource agency involvement and collaboration;
 - Improve public involvement and support;
 - Demonstrate real commitment to the project; and
 - Coordinate work across phases of project delivery.

Expediting Project Delivery

Strategy	Stage of Project Planning or Delivery				
	Early Planning	Corridor Planning	NEPA	Design/ROW/Permitting	Construction
1. Change-control practices			●	●	●
2. Consolidated decision council		○	●	●	
3. Context-sensitive design and solutions	○	○	●	●	○
4. Coordinated and responsive agency involvement	○	●	●	●	●
5. Dispute-resolution process		○	●	●	○
6. DOT-funded resource agency liaisons		○	●	●	
7. Early commitment of construction funding	●	●	●		
8. Expedited internal review and decision-making	●	●	●	●	
9. Facilitation to align expectations up front	○	●	●		
10. Highly responsive public engagement	●	●	●	●	○
11. Incentive payments to expedite relocations				●	
12. Media relations manager		●	●	●	○
13. Performance standards	○	●	●	●	
14. Planning and environmental linkages	●	●	●		
15. Planning-level environmental screening criteria	●	●			
16. Programmatic agreement for Section 106			●	●	
17. Programmatic or batched permitting			●	●	
18. Real-time collaborative interagency reviews	○	○	●	○	
19. Regional environmental analysis framework	○	●	●	●	
20. Risk management	●	●	●	●	●
21. Strategic oversight and readiness assessment	○	●	●		
22. Team co-location		○	●	●	
23. Tiered NEPA process	○	●	●		
24. Up-front environmental commitments		●	●	●	

Implementation Award Recipients



- Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT)
- Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD)
- Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
- Idaho Transportation Department (ITD)
- Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG)
- Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)
- Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR)
- South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT)
- South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT)
- Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans)

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SHRP2 on the Web

- **GoSHRP2**

www.fhwa.dot.gov/GoSHRP2

- Apply for Implementation assistance
- Learn how practitioners are using SHRP2 products

- **SHRP2 @AASHTO**

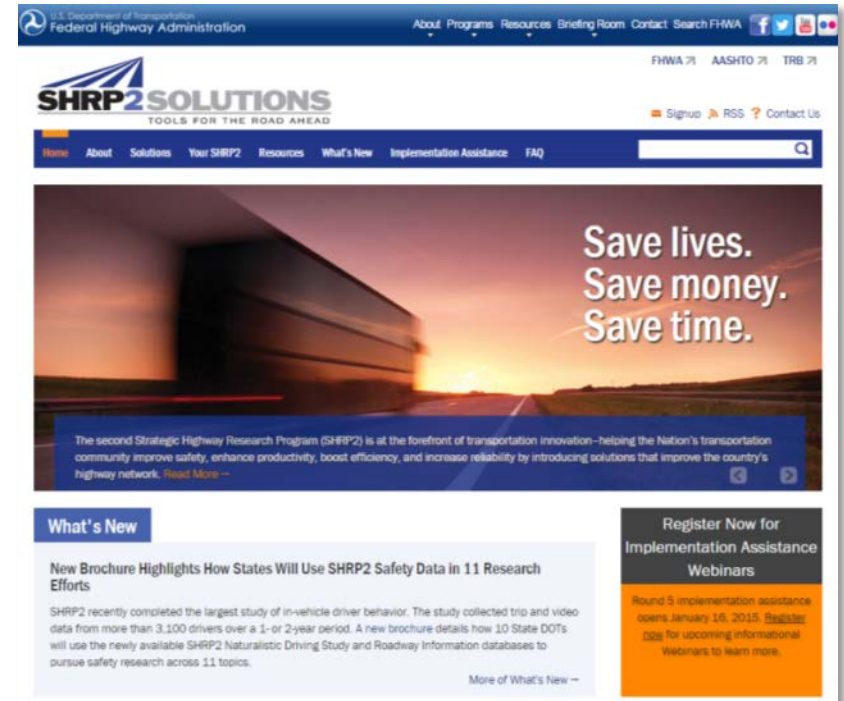
<http://SHRP2.transportation.org>

- Implementation information for AASHTO members

- **SHRP2 @TRB**

www.TRB.org/SHRP2

- Research information



- **FHWA C19 Website**

https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/env_initiatives/SHRP2.aspx



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Streamlining With NEPA Assignment at ODOT

March 2017

Office of Environmental Services

Tim Hill, Administrator

Jacque Annarino, NEPA Assignment Coordinator

Streamlining at ODOT

- ▶ ODOT's need to integrate and streamline
- ▶ How ODOT changed approach to project development
- ▶ Accomplishments and Benefits of new approach

Why the need to Integrate and Streamline?



ODOT's Approach to Project Development

- ▶ Project Development Process
- ▶ Consultant Scoping Fees Guidance
- ▶ Online Environmental Documentation System (EnviroNet)

ODOT's Approach to Project Development

► Programmatic Agreements

Farmlands

Coastal

Ecological

Indiana & Northern Long-Eared Bat

Cultural Resources

Categorical Exclusion (CE)

Scenic River

Section 6(f)

Section 4(f)

Environmental Justice (guidance approved by FHWA- similar to an MOA)

► Future Programmatic Agreements

Emergency Projects

Endangered Species

NEPA Assignment Potential Benefits for Ohio

- ▶ Estimated 20-25% time savings to program
- ▶ Estimated savings of up to **\$23 million annually**
 - ▶ Reduced project inflation
 - ▶ Project user delay costs
- ▶ Low risk - maybe 1 lawsuit every 8-10 years

Potential Streamlining Opportunities with NEPA Assignment

For projects under \$20 million

- ▶ FHWA reviews 4(f) and other support documents = 15-30 days
- ▶ 40 per year = 1,000 review days per year
- ▶ 35% performed concurrently = 650 project review days
- ▶ Out of the 650, only 15% result in critical path reviews = 98 days
- ▶ 3.9% inflation and delay cost = \$500,000 per year

Potential Streamlining Opportunities with NEPA Assignment

For projects \$20 million to \$149 million

- ▶ FHWA performs reviews on:
 - ▶ Purpose and Need = 30 days
 - ▶ Feasibility Study = 30 days
 - ▶ Alternative Evaluation Report = 30 days
 - ▶ Section 4(f) actions = 45 days
 - ▶ Review and approval of the CE = 60 days
 - ▶ ...plus multiple reviews (drafts, etc.)

Potential Streamlining Opportunities with NEPA Assignment

For projects \$20 million to \$149 million

- ▶ FHWA review for a medium sized project- 390 days
- ▶ 30% performed concurrently = 273 project review days
- ▶ ODOT averages 12 projects per year = 3,276 review days
- ▶ Out of this, 25% results in critical path reviews
- ▶ = 819 days of delay
- ▶ 3.9% inflation and delay cost = \$5.7 million per year
- ▶ User costs/crash reduction benefits = \$13.2 million per year

Potential Streamlining Opportunities with NEPA Assignment

For biggest projects...



cha-ching! SM

ODOT's *New* Approach to Project Development

▶ NEPA Assignment

▶ For environmental actions on transportation projects

▶ Does not include FTA or FRA



Implementation of NEPA Assignment

- ▶ 10/21/14 - Letter of Interest submitted
- ▶ 12/01/14 - Brief ODOT Executive Leadership & Agencies
- ▶ 12/15/14 - Draft Application submitted
- ▶ 12/15/14 - Begin district visits and meetings with Associations
- ▶ 12/24/14 - Letters to Tribes sent
- ▶ 04/12/15 - Draft Application Public Notice
- ▶ 04/22/15 - Draft MOU submitted
- ▶ 05/28/15 - Final Application submitted
- ▶ 10/15/15 - MOU Public Notice
- ▶ 12/28/15 - MOU Effective Date

Updated Agreements

- ▶ Section 106 Programmatic Agreement
- ▶ Ecological Memorandum of Agreement
- ▶ Categorical Exclusion Programmatic Agreement
- ▶ Indiana Bat Programmatic Agreement
- ▶ Tribal Letter Agreement
- ▶ Sole Source Aquifer Agreement
- ▶ Section 106 Consulting Party Guidance
- ▶ Section 4(f) Manual
- ▶ Section 6(f) Manual
- ▶ Farmlands Letter Agreement
- ▶ Federal National Scenic River Agreement
- ▶ Cover Letter for Other Agreements

New Guidance Documents

- ▶ Escalation Procedures
- ▶ 4(f) Guidance
- ▶ CE Guidance
- ▶ Emergency Projects Guidance
- ▶ File Management & Documentation Guidance
- ▶ Internal Communication Guidance
- ▶ Legal Sufficiency Review Guidance
- ▶ QC/QA Guidance
- ▶ Records Retention Guidance
- ▶ Self-Assessment Guidance
- ▶ Self-Assessment Checklists
- ▶ Signature Authority Guidance
- ▶ Statute of Limitations Guidance



Other New Items

- ▶ Performance Measures
 - ▶ Goals
 - ▶ Baseline Data
- ▶ Training Plan



NEPA Assignment Benefits for Ohio

- ▶ Opportunity to “refresh” environmental staff
 - ▶ Updated manuals and guidance
 - ▶ Updated process improvements Department wide
 - ▶ Updated training

NEPA Assignment removes
“personal preferences”

- ▶ 1st Quarter Actual Savings was \$4.6 million

NEPA Assignment Audit Results

Audit Report

- ▶ Eleven Observations (mostly positive)
- ▶ Three successful practices
 - ▶ Dedicated legal counsel as part of environmental team
 - ▶ Pre-qualified consultants for environmental work
 - ▶ Required to take same training as ODOT environmental staff to be prequalified
 - ▶ Required, on-going training of all environmental staff and consultants



Lessons Learned

- ▶ Good team is important

- ▶ Dedicate time

- ▶ Push FHWA

- ▶ Bi-Weekly Conference Calls with detailed agenda to keep everyone on task

- ▶ Elevate issues quickly and push for resolution



- ▶ Proactive outreach

- ▶ Executive Management

- ▶ Districts

- ▶ Partner Agencies

- ▶ Environmental Groups

- ▶ Contractors

- ▶ Locals

- ▶ ACEC

- ▶ Etc.





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Questions?



Please remember to type in
your questions to the
question prompt.

Thank you for participating!

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