SHRP2 SOLUTIONS
TOOLS FOR THE ROAD AHEAD

Guide to Better Integrating Freight Transport into Highway Capacity Planning and Decisions (C15)

Integrating freight demands into capacity planning for better economic outcomes

Save Lives

Save Money

Save Time

Challenge

Freight transport capacity demands are continuing to grow. When transportation agencies act to improve capacity, often the economics of freight supply chains and how the movement of freight is likely to react to capacity improvements are not part of planning and engineering. Freight shippers, receivers, and carriers are highway stakeholder groups whose needs and motivations are not always well understood by the public sector. This gap leaves great potential for unintended consequences, including negative impacts on economic competitiveness, activity, development, and growth.

While there are many proposals for addressing these needs, the planning and engineering communities need to better understand freight economics and supply chain systems so they can make capacity decisions that benefit goods movement and create economic efficiencies. Planning for and providing highway capacity that serves economic development helps deliver highway projects with local and national benefits.

Solution

SHRP2 is developing a transportation practitioner's guide regarding how to conduct market-driven freight planning. The practitioner's guide provides a blueprint for appropriate consideration of freight transportation, from international to local, in the highway capacity planning and project development processes, including the key decision points at which freight stakeholder participation is critical for reaching good decisions. The research is meant to provide guidance to state DOTs, MPOs, decision makers, and stakeholders on appropriate consideration of freight in planning for and providing highway capacity that serves economic development.

The Implementation Assistance Program

Implementation assistance is available to help State departments of transportation (DOTs), metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and other interested organizations deploy SHRP2 Solutions. A range of opportunities is available to raise awareness of SHRP2 Solutions and to encourage early adoption of these products. Application periods are offered approximately twice per year. Each product selected for implementation assistance has the potential to deliver more efficient, cost-effective programs to meet the complex challenges facing transportation today.

CAPACITY

One of four SHRP2 focus areas, Capacity products help transportation organizations to systematically integrate environmental, economic, and community requirements into the analysis, planning, and design of new highway capacity.

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Visit: www.fhwa.dot.gov/GoSHRP2
Learn more about products, case studies, and implementation assistance.

How can you learn more?

Visit: www.fhwa.dot.gov/GoSHRP2

- Additional product information
- Information about how this product is being used in the field
- Contact information for peers who are familiar with this product
- Links to research reports

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About SHRP2 Implementation

The second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2) is a partnership of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and the Transportation Research Board (TRB). TRB completed the research, and now FHWA and AASHTO are jointly implementing the resulting SHRP2 Solutions that will help the transportation community enhance productivity, boost efficiency, increase safety, and improve the reliability of the Nation's highway system.