



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
Office of Planning, Environment and Realty

Office of REAL ESTATE SERVICES

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/real_estate/

The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty supports and conducts research to improve transportation decision making and promote efficiency while protecting communities and the environment. The Office's research:

- Informs Decisions
- Reduces Environmental Impacts
- Enhances Quality of Life
- Accelerates Project Delivery
- Advances Transportation Planning

The following document highlights specific research activities in the Office of Real Estate Services. For more information, please visit: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/hep_research/

OFFICE OF REAL ESTATE SERVICES

FHWA's Office of Real Estate Services (HEPR) develops and implements programs and activities to advance the fair and equitable acquisition and management of real property.

Research Focus

The Office's research activities focus on:

- Improving the regulations and polices for acquiring and managing highway real property interests, developing improved methodology, technology, and systems for right-of-way agencies.
- Advancing technological innovations and research that streamlines right-of-way acquisition processes.

The Office's research goals include:

- Streamlining current acquisition and property management processes.
- Fostering and encouraging innovative processes, practices and policies.
- Developing automation and tools that save time, cut administrative costs, and help ensure timely assistance for transportation public agencies at the state and local levels.

HEPR has led development of updates of its two primary regulations, 49 CFR and 23 CFR. As part of that development, FHWA considered current needs and requests from its stakeholders to eliminate duplicative and outdated language, and streamline processes to better meet current Federal-aid highway program needs.

Staff Contact: Melissa Corder, 202-366-5853 or melissa.corder@dot.gov.

FEATURED RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Right-of-Way Planning Cost Estimator

This study will provide FHWA with tangible and easily understandable documentation for transportation professionals in public agencies at the state and local levels, to use in support of implementing electronic right-of-way cost estimate calculators for ROW and related activities.

Staff Contact: Peter Clark, 202-366-2025, or peter.clark@dot.gov.

GIS Based Right-of-Way Cost Estimation Guide and Demonstration

This project will provide FHWA with a guide to help streamline the project delivery process, saving time and producing more accurate cost estimates for States with limited GIS and right-of-way estimation capabilities or experience. The project will also include a high-level demonstration of a GIS-based cost estimation that could be adopted by States to use with their own data to view impacts and estimate costs along proposed alignments for transportation improvement projects.

Staff Contact: Peter Clark, 202-366-2025, or peter.clark@dot.gov.

Relocation for Federal-Aid Highway Programs Training Material Update

This project will update training materials and explore adapting the current **National Highway Institute Basic Relocation Under the Uniform Act** 3-day course into a blended course, comprised of both Web-Based Training (WBT) and Web-Conference Training (WCT) components that includes development of a complimentary online workshop. A primary focus will be on procedures, techniques and requirements for relocation of nonresidential and residential displaced persons in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act and corresponding regulations in 49 CFR Part 24 as they relate to transportation projects.

Staff Contact: Melissa Corder, 202-366-5853, or melissa.corder@dot.gov.

State of the Practice – Use of The Waiver Valuation Provision; 49 CFR24.102(c)(2)

HEPR is sponsoring this “state-of-the-practice” research project to document the waiver valuation’s current use among acquiring agencies in the Federal and Federal-aid Realty Programs, and identify potential regulatory revisions that might result in greater efficiencies.

Staff Contact: Kevin O’Grady, 202-366-2030, or richard.ogrady@dot.gov.

Streamlining of Nonresidential Moving Cost Determinations and Claims

This study will examine and quantify the time, staffing, and cost to administer current methods for nonresidential moves, and how streamlining methods for low-cost, uncomplicated moves would reduce time and costs for both the displacing agency and the nonresidential person displaced by highway projects.

Staff Contact: Melissa Corder, 202-366-5853, or melissa.corder@dot.gov.

Alternative Uses of the Right-of-Way

State DOTs and local public agencies increasingly receive requests to use highway right-of-way for uses other than vehicular travel. HEPR will conduct a multi-phased nationwide study to explore these requests, and potential flexibilities in right-of-way use. The study will quantify existing operational and safety requirements, examine current property management processes, determine the feasibility of alternative uses, and identify opportunities for streamlining property management and approval processes.

Staff Contact: Lindsey Svendsen, 202-366-2035, or lindsey.svendsen@dot.gov.

Appraisal for Federal-Aid Highway Programs Training Material Update

This project will update training materials and explore adapting the training into a web-based course that includes development of a complimentary online workshop. A primary focus will be to explain and illustrate how to incorporate the Uniform Act and 49 CFR part 24 appraisal requirements when appraising real property interests acquired for Federal-aid Highway programs.

Staff Contact: Kevin O’Grady, 202-366-2030, or richard.ogrady@dot.gov.

State of the Practice – Federal Lands Transfer (FLT) Process

This research updates FHWA’s understanding of the current state of the FLT practice (e.g., frequency and extent of use); and develops information and tools that will enhance the ability of FHWA, Federal Land Management Agencies, and State DOTs to efficiently and effectively complete the FLT process.

Staff Contact: Carolyn James, 202-493-0353, or carolyn.james@dot.gov.