



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.

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

Research Focus

The Office's research activities focus on:

- ◆ Improving the regulations and policies 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.

Staff Contact: [Melissa Corder](#), 202-366-5853.

FEATURED RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

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.

Appraisal for Federal-Aid Highway Programs Training Material Update

This project will update training materials and redevelop the National Highway Institute's (NHI) Appraisal for Federal-Aid Highway Program's instructor led course into two web-based courses. NHI-141053 Foundations of Federal-Aid Highway Program Appraisals is a student directed self-paced web-based training course which is designed to be

followed by NHI-141054 Practical Applications in Federal-Aid Highway Program Appraisals, an instructor led course. The new courses 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.

Relocation for Federal-Aid Highway Programs Training Material Update

This project will update training materials and redevelop the current instructor led NHI Basic Relocation Under the Uniform Act into 2 web based courses. A 2-day Basic Residential Relocation course and a 1-day Basic Nonresidential Relocation Course. Both courses will be comprised of Web-Based Training (WBT) and Web-Conference Training (WCT) components. A primary focus will be on procedures, techniques, and regulatory requirements for relocation of nonresidential and residential displaced persons in accordance with the Uniform Act and implementing regulations in 49 CFR Part 24.

Staff Contact: [Melissa Corder](#), 202-366-5853.

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

This project will 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 through enhanced use of waiver valuations.

Staff Contact: [Kevin O'Grady](#), 202-366-2030.

Streamlining of Nonresidential Moving Cost Determinations and Claims

This study examines and quantifies the time, staffing, and cost to carry out nonresidential moves. It also documents 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.

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.