



May 5, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: DISTRIBUTION

FROM: Crawford F. Jencks  
Deputy Director, Cooperative Research Programs

SUBJECT: **Joint Request for FY 2011 Research Problem Statements—Due July 30, 2010  
National Cooperative Freight Research Program (NCFRP)  
& Hazardous Materials Cooperative Research Program (HMCRP)**

The National Cooperative Freight Research Program (NCFRP) and the Hazardous Materials Cooperative Research Program (HMCRP) are applied, contract research programs with objectives of developing information that will be used to improve the efficiency, reliability, safety, and security of the nation's freight transportation system. The NCFRP and HMCRP were authorized in federal legislation -- the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The Federal sponsors of the programs, respectively, are the U.S. DOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) and its Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). Both programs are managed by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academies.

The NCFRP and HMCRP carry out applied research and other technical activities in a variety of freight system- and/or hazardous materials-related areas, including policy, planning, operations, economics, administration, environment, safety, and security. Each program is governed by an oversight committee or panel, comprised primarily of industry stakeholders.

The purpose of this announcement is to solicit problem statements identifying research needs for the FY 2011 programs of the NCFRP and HMCRP; these submittals will help to form the basis for selection of the next round of research projects by the respective Oversight Committee or Panel. Further details about each program can be found on the TRB website as follows <<http://www.trb.org/crp/about/divd.asp>> that may help guide submitters in understanding the interests of the Committees. Previously selected problems can be found on the website as well.

A problem-statement outline is attached. Research problem statement submittals should follow the outline and may be submitted by anyone at any time. However, to be considered for the FY 2011 programs, we are asking that problems be submitted by **July 30, 2010**. Problem statements may be submitted by e-mail to [ncfrp@nas.edu](mailto:ncfrp@nas.edu) or [hmcrp@nas.edu](mailto:hmcrp@nas.edu) depending on the subject matter. If not sure of which program, send to either, and staff will make the appropriate assignment. Submitters are encouraged to submit electronically, and it is preferred that the problem statement be sent as an attachment to the e-mail message in Microsoft Word format. However, the problem statement may also be submitted in the text of an e-mail message or by fax or USPS. Please note that research problem statements need not be lengthy; 1-2 pages should be sufficient to describe the research topic in the requested format. And, evidence of a literature search (i.e. a summary of findings) would be appreciated by the oversight committees to minimize overlap with previous or ongoing research.

The oversight committees are expected to meet in late fall to select the research problem statements for FY 2011. For research projects selected, requests for proposals will be issued, and contractors will be selected through a competitive proposal process.

Thank you for your interest. Your willingness to participate in the identification of relevant research topics is a key element of a successful, industry-driven cooperative research program. Should

you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 202/334-3224 or [cjencks@nas.edu](mailto:cjencks@nas.edu).

Attachment

Distribution:

Air Transport Association; American Association of Port Authorities; American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; American Trucking Associations; Association of American Railroads; Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations; Cargo Airline Association; Chair and Members, NCFRP Oversight Committee; Chair and Members, TRB Committee – Freight Systems Group; Chairs and Members, NCFRP Panels and Committees; Chairs and Members, GRB Freight Committees; Coalition for America's Gateways and Corridors; Department of Defense; Environmental Protection Agency; Federal Aviation Administration; Federal Highway Administration; Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; Federal Railroad Administration; Inland Rivers Ports and Terminals Association; Intermodal Association of North America; International Air Cargo Association; Maritime Administration; National Association of Counties; National Association of Manufacturers; National Association of Regional Councils; National Association of Waterfront Employers; National Industrial Transportation League; National League of Cities; National Ports and Waterways Institute; National Retail Federation; Research and Innovative Technology Administration; Retail Industry Leaders Association; Transportation Research Board – Selected Chair; U.S. Army Corp of Engineers; U.S. Chamber of Commerce; U.S. Department of Homeland Security; U.S. Department of Transportation; Waterfront Coalition; World Shipping Council



**OUTLINE FOR PROBLEM STATEMENTS**

**NATIONAL COOPERATIVE FREIGHT RESEARCH PROGRAM (NCFRP)  
&  
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM  
(HMCRP)**

Check one: \_\_NCFRP or \_\_HMCRP Problem Statement

*For consideration in the FY 2011 programs, statements are  
due by July 30, 2010*

**I. PROBLEM TITLE**

The title should be no more than 10 words.

**II. RESEARCH PROBLEM STATEMENT**

In no more than three paragraphs, provide a general description of the problem requiring research. A summary of findings from a literature search is encouraged. You may use TRB's Transportation Research Information Services (TRIS) database at [tris.trb.org](http://tris.trb.org) to conduct your search.

**III. OBJECTIVE**

Include a clear, concise statement of the objectives (anticipated products) that are expected to be met by this research.

**IV. RESEARCH PROPOSED**

Provide a statement of the specific research proposed, how it relates to the research problem statement in Section II, and, if possible, describe the research approach and the tasks envisioned.

**V. ESTIMATE OF THE PROBLEM FUNDING AND RESEARCH PERIOD**

**Recommended Funding:** Include an estimate of the funds necessary to accomplish the objective stated in Section III. As a general guideline, the current cost for research averages approximately \$150,000-\$250,000 per professional staff-year. Projects will typically be in the \$300,000-\$500,000 range. A detailed budget is not needed in this problem statement.

**Research Period:** Provide an estimate of the period of time needed to complete the research, including 3 months for review and revision of a draft final report.

## **VI. URGENCY AND PAYOFF POTENTIAL**

Include a statement on the importance of this particular research. Identify and, if possible, quantify the potential payoff from the achievement of the project objective. Any institutional, political, or socio-economic barriers to implementation of the anticipated research products should also be identified.

## **VII. RELATED RESEARCH**

If known, provide information on other research—completed, in progress, or pending—that is closely related to the proposed problem.

## **VIII. PERSON(S) DEVELOPING THE PROBLEM**

Provide the specifics (i.e., name, title, address, telephone, and fax numbers) for the person(s) who developed the problem.

## **IX. PROCESS USED TO DEVELOP PROBLEM STATEMENT**

State whether this problem statement is the product of an individual, a formal committee, or another entity.

## **X. DATE AND SUBMITTED BY**

Provide the specifics for the person(s) who submitted the problem and the date of submission.

**Submit to: Email: [ncfrp@nas.edu](mailto:ncfrp@nas.edu) (freight)  
or [hmcrrp@nas.edu](mailto:hmcrrp@nas.edu) (hazmat)**

**Alternatively, send to:  
Crawford F. Jencks, Deputy Director  
Cooperative Research Programs  
Transportation Research Board  
500 Fifth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202/334-3224  
FAX 202/334-2006  
[cjencks@nas.edu](mailto:cjencks@nas.edu)**