



RESEARCH NEEDS STATEMENTS



TRB RESEARCH NEEDS STATEMENTS DATABASE

An important function of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) is to stimulate research that addresses concerns, issues, or problems facing the transportation community. The TRB Technical Activities Division standing committees support this function by identifying, developing, and disseminating research needs statements (RNS). The RNS Database contains a dynamic collection of research needs statements by the TRB standing committees and reflects the highest priority research needs at any time in the view of the committees. The collection of research needs statements are augmented and kept up to date by the TRB standing committees as part of their regular portfolio of activities.

The database provides a shopping list for all those in the transportation research community who fund and conduct transportation research, including TRB's cooperative research programs, federal agencies, state departments of transportation, university faculty and students, consultants, and others. In addition, the Technical Activities Council, Groups, Sections, and standing committees in the Technical Activities Division can use the database as a tool in conducting strategic reviews of transportation research needs in their subject areas, including the setting of research priorities and the identification of gaps.

Research needs statements can be searched through simple or advanced query screens, or browsed by committee or subject.

The RNS Database can be accessed at: <http://rns.trb.org>

A summary of currently posted research needs statements and an indication of the users of the database appears on the opposite side of this page.

To date, one hundred forty standing committees and task forces have posted and updated over 800 statements in the following subject areas*:

Subject Areas	RNS
Administration and Management	77
Aviation	30
Construction	238
Data and Information Technology	95
Design	359
Education and Training	42
Energy and Environment	66
Finance and Economics	46
Freight	29
Highways	692
History	3
Intermodal	64
Maintenance	59
Marine	6
Materials	73
Motor Carriers	13
Operations and Traffic Management	221
Pavements	96
Pedestrians and Bicyclists	82
Pipelines	4
Planning	206
Policy and Legal Issues	74
Public Transportation	150
Railroads	21
Research	33
Safety and Human Factors	164
Security	24
Societal	51
Soils and Geology	71
Structures	85
Vehicles	43

* Note: a single RNS can be assigned to more than one subject area

RNS Database usage has doubled in 2008, attracting researchers from all over the world.