

# **Transportation Knowledge Networks: A Management Strategy for the 21st Century**

***Roundtable Discussion on Next Steps***

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# Steps

- **Concept** (*done*)

- TRB Special Report 284 “Transportation Knowledge Networks: A Management Strategy for the 21st Century”

- **Development** (*next step*)

- NCRHP project (proposed) to develop detailed business plan before next surface transportation reauthorization

- **Implementation** (*future steps*)

- RITA to develop national coordinating structure (“center”)
- Regional consortia to develop transportation knowledge networks (“TKNs” or “networks”)

# Development

## *Detailed Business Plan*

- **Services/Markets**
  - What services for whom?
- **Organization**
  - Who does what and how?
- **Resources**
  - How much money, staff, and technology?

# Services

## Center

- Network building, seed funding
- Technical assistance
- Marketing/communications
- Government relations
- Annual meetings
- Information infrastructure development/tools
- Standards/protocols
- Professional capacity building

## Networks

- Information sharing/services
- Reference services
- Interlibrary loans
- Coordination of collections
- Sharing of catalogues through TLCat
- Identification of key information provider and user groups
- Professional capacity building

# Markets

## Center

- Regional networks
- Federal network

## Networks

- State DOTs, state agencies
- Federal DOT, federal agencies
- Transit agencies
- Local government (MPOs, DPWs, ...)
- Transportation providers
- Contractors
- Consultants
- Universities
- Associations

# Organization *Structure*

## Center

- “Coordinating Structure for TKNs”
  - Housed within USDOT/RITA
  - Advisory Council on Transportation Information

## Networks

- Regional TKNs
  - Lead core group
  - State DOT libraries, university libraries, agencies, cities, MPOs, counties, corporations
- Federal TKN
  - NTL as lead
  - USDOT libraries, BTS and modal administrations...

# Resources

## *Funding (Startup and Longer-Term)*

### Center

- **\$1.5-\$2 million annually in federal funding for startup, development of critical programs and services**

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- **\$2.5-\$3 million annually in federal funding for expansion of critical programs**

### Networks

- **\$1.5-\$3 million annually in federal funding for pilot grants to start regional and federal TKNs**

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- **\$2.5-\$5 million annually in federal funding to expand programs**
- **\$2.5-\$5 million annually in state, university, local, private and in-kind match**

# Resources

## *Funding Sources*

- **Federal**
  - Title V funds
- **State**
  - State Planning and Research funds
  - Title I state grants
  - Other state funds
- **University**
  - University Transportation Center funds
  - Other university funds
- **Other**
  - Transit agencies, MPOs, local governments, private firms

# Resources

## *Staffing*

### Center

- Director
- Field librarians
- Information technology personnel
- Marketing staff
- Administrative staff

### Networks

- Coordinators
- IT specialists
- Administrative support

## Action Items

- **Inform transportation community about report and recommendations**
- **Develop and fund NCHRP project (scope, budget, schedule, management)**
- **Establish and fund coordinating structure (“center”) within USDOT/RITA**
- **Enact legislation on Advisory Council on Transportation Information**