



Georgia Department of Transportation

# Developing Effective GDOT Research Need Statements

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# Talking Points

## Research Need Statement...

- Significance
- Composition
- Optimization
- Submittal
- Approval
- Questions



# RNS: Significance

- Basic means of initiating GDOT research
  - Required for all *core* GDOT research projects
  - Required for both external and *internal* partners
- Basic means of communicating research need
  - Communication piece for GDOT decision-makers
    - Sponsoring office(s) [end-users]
    - Funding review groups [RTAG's]
    - Executive management
  - Should be written with *all* of these groups in mind
    - Clear statements of need, novelty, approach, and benefits
    - Comprehensible by general transportation audience

# RNS: Composition

- Title
- Problem statement
- Literature search
- Research objective
- Implementation prospects
- Research significance
- Project duration
- Cost estimate

## RNS: Composition (II)

- Statement developer(s)
- Investigator(s)
- Agency (i.e. institution)
- Date of submittal
- GDOT office(s) supporting
- Technical/implementation manager
- References
- Confidentiality statement

# RNS: Optimization

- Things to Emphasize
  - *Understanding* of research need or problem to be solved
  - Clear project objectives
  - Implementation prospects
    - Per your understanding, if objectives are reached
    - Low- or high-risk research?
  - Significance of research to GDOT
    - Explicit statement of final product and its use(s)
    - Realistic B/C ratio

# RNS: Optimization (II)

- Things to Avoid
  - Poor editing, proofreading, and formatting
  - Writing a book
  - cursory literature search; full-blown literature review
  - Big budgets for first projects
  - Unrealistic schedules (think float)
  - Promising the moon
  - Criticism of GDOT (think win-win)

# RNS: Submittal

- One general RNS solicitation per year
  - Mid-August to mid-September
  - Preliminary discussion with GDOT sponsor(s) encouraged
- Upload to GTI portal (site)
- Confidentiality
  - Intellectual property is highly respected...
  - RNS review limited to relevant GDOT staff



# RNS: Approval

- Sponsoring office(s) head(s)
- Research Technical Advisory Groups (RTAG's)
  - Funding review groups
  - Aligned with GDOT strategic goals
  - Research staff decide which RTAG reviews RNS
- Research Advisory Committee
  - Chief Engineer and Division Directors
  - Normally review RTAG recommendations in February
  - Majority vote
- Announcement of projects selected for funding
  - Follow-up enquiries are acceptable



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
ASK  
QUESTIONS**



рахмат  
danke

謝謝

ngiyabonga

tesekkür ederim

thank you

gracias

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