

Accelerating the Rate of Innovation Among State DOTs—Tracing Domestic Scan Impacts

MEMORANDUM

Findings for Scan 10-03 Best Practices in Performance Measurement for Highway Maintenance and Preservation

Prepared for:

National Cooperative Highway Research Program
U.S. Domestic Scan Program

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SPECIAL NOTE: This report **IS NOT** an official publication of the National Cooperative Highway Research Program, Transportation Research Board, National Research Council, or The National Academies.

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Disclaimer

The opinions and conclusions expressed or implied are those of the research agency that performed the research and are not necessarily those of the Transportation Research Board or its sponsoring agencies. This report has not been reviewed or accepted by the Transportation Research Board Executive Committee or the Governing Board of the National Research Council.

Overview

Developed by AASHTO and administered by NCHRP, the U.S. Domestic Scan Program (<http://www.domesticscan.org/>) facilitates technology transfer among transportation agency staff by creating opportunities for face-to-face information exchange on selected timely topics. Scan 10-03—Best Practices in Performance Measurement for Highway Maintenance and Preservation (<http://www.domesticscan.org/10-03-performance-measuring-for-highway-maintenance-and-preservation>) is one in a series of scans conducted since 2007.

Tracing Domestic Scan Impacts is a companion effort that seeks to assess how well the U.S. Domestic Scan Program is meeting its goals of broad information dissemination and accelerated implementation of new transportation technologies and best practices.

For scan 10-03, CTC & Associates conducted an online survey of scan team participants to collect feedback on the scan and gauge its impact on practitioners. We collected responses from six of the seven members of the scan team.

Survey findings

1. CONDUCT OF THE SCAN. How important to you were the following scan program features in contributing to the overall value of this scan tour?

Scan Feature	Responses					Average
	1— Not important	2— Somewhat important	3— Important	4— Very important	5— Extremely important	
Preparatory materials and meetings in advance of the scan tour				3	3	4.5
Face-to-face technical exchange with peer exchange participants and other scan team members				1	5	4.8
Final report of scan findings				3	3	4.5
Post-scan consultation with peer exchange participants and other scan team members		1	1	2	2	3.8

2. OUTCOMES OF THE SCAN. How important to you were the following scan program outcomes in contributing to the overall value of this scan tour?

Scan Outcome	Responses					Average
	1— Not important	2— Somewhat important	3— Important	4— Very important	5— Extremely important	
<i>Introduction to a new technology or practice</i>			3	3		3.5
<i>Clearer understanding of a new technology or practice</i>				3	3	4.5
Identification of one or more individuals <i>among peer exchange participants</i> to call on as a future resource				1	5	4.8
Identification of one or more individuals <i>on the scan team</i> to call on as a future resource			1	1	4	4.5
Information with which to <i>begin implementation</i> of a technology or practice at your agency				3	3	4.5
Information with which to <i>continue implementation</i> of a technology or practice at your agency			2	2	2	4.0

3. SHARED INFORMATION WITH OTHERS. Following the scan tour, if you shared information about one or more of the technologies, practices or policies identified through the scan, please describe how. (Check all that apply.)

Type of Information Sharing	Number responding	Percent responding
Shared information with peers or subordinates at my agency	4	67%
Presented findings to senior management or agency executives	2	33%
Presented scan findings at a state or regional meeting	2	33%
Presented scan findings national or international meeting	1	17%
Wrote a paper or journal article about the scan findings	0	0%
Recommended state or national research based on the scan findings	0	0%

If you checked any of the boxes above, please provide details (conference name and date, title of presentation, webinar or paper, etc.)

- Presented a summary of the scan to FHWA via webinar
- Discussed at a statewide meeting; attempted to present at MAASTO but couldn't get on the agenda.
- At our internal technical workshops held semi-annually
- WASHTO Committee on Maintenance, March 2012
- AASHTO Standing Committee on Highways

4. BARRIERS TO INFORMATION SHARING. Please describe the barriers you encountered to sharing the scan findings after the scan tour. (Check all that apply)

Barrier to Information Sharing	Number responding	Percent responding
Insufficient time for information sharing activities	1	17%
Insufficient interest/support from management	3	50%
Lack of presentation materials	0	0%
Lack of expertise to communicate scan findings	1	17%
Insufficient funding to attend meetings	3	50%
Insufficient technology to present scan findings via the Web (videoconferencing or webinars)	0	0%
Other (<i>free response</i>)	1	17%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Not so much funding as travel authorization to attend meetings. Others on my team presented at national meetings I have since attended.		

What additional support can the Domestic Scan Program provide to disseminate scan findings more broadly?

- Brochure or executive summary that can be distributed in hard copy or electronic form
- Oddly enough, I don't think I ever received a printed copy of the final report. I don't know if I was supposed to have purchased one, but I don't recall ever being notified that it was published. I have seen a copy, but I'm not even sure where to get one. It would be helpful to have it in talking with others about implementation.

5. IMPLEMENTED SCAN FINDINGS. If you used information from the scan to make or recommend a change to practices at your organization, please indicate how. (Check all that apply)

Type of Implementation	Number responding	Percent responding
Proposed implementation	0	0%
Planned implementation	2	33%
In-progress implementation	2	33%
Completed implementation	0	0%

If you checked any of the boxes above, please provide details on the implementation.

- We have been working on revamping this program for the last two years.
- Have reviewed our own performance measures and adjusted based on ideas from the scan.
- Improved sampling methodology
- Using the information to improve our measures and data collection methods

6. BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTATION. Please describe the barriers that you encountered to implementing the scan findings at your agency. (Check all that apply)

Barrier to Implementation	Number responding	Percent responding
Insufficient interest/support from management	3	50%
Solutions observed on the scan tour are not applicable at my agency	1	17%
My agency's policies/practices/technologies are more advanced than those observed on the tour	1	17%
Regulatory or legislative barriers to implementation	1	17%
Insufficient time to pursue implementation	2	33%
Insufficient funding	2	33%
Insufficient expertise	0	0%
Other (<i>free response</i>)	2	33%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">FHWA doesn't have a person responsible for overseeing the Highway Maintenance program.We have been working on revamping our program for the last two years, but staff turnover has extended the planning cycle and delayed implementation. The information from this project has been and will be instrumental in implementation.		

What additional support can the Domestic Scan Program provide to help agencies implement scan technologies and practices?

- Regional or National Conferences on Highway Maintenance Programs (HMP) can enhance the dissemination of HMP state of the practice and increase the exchange of ideas among HMP practitioners.
- It's a good program and our participation in it has been extremely valuable to us.
- More direct or face-to-face communication to executive leadership on how the scan results can benefit their agency. It has more impact when it comes from AASHTO or NCHRP.

7. WEBSITE. Prior to receiving this survey request, were you aware of the U.S. Domestic Scan Program website, domesticscan.org?

	Number responding	Percent responding
Yes	6	100%
No	0	0%

8. OTHER COMMENTS. Please use this space to provide any additional comments about the scan tour or your use of the findings.

- Would like to know where I can get a printed copy of our scan report.