

Saving time and money while delivering better transportation and environmental outcomes

Tools and techniques to expedite project delivery

Speeding up the delivery of needed transportation projects is high on everyone's agenda—from the traveling public who desire timely improvements to the local communities that rely on scheduled delivery of goods and services.

Transportation agencies are being challenged to deliver projects with greater efficiency and speed at the same time that funding and staffing are decreasing and transportation needs are growing. The use of innovative approaches and early coordination with resources agencies, the public, and stakeholders can help transportation agencies achieve timely project delivery.

Under the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2), research was conducted to evaluate the common types of constraints to expediting project delivery as well as the strategies needed to address them. The research also developed a set of case studies that illustrate how the constraints have been successfully encountered and addressed.

Expediting Project Delivery

The Solution

The research included in the resulting report, *Expedited Planning and Environmental Review (C19)*, identifies **24 strategies for addressing or avoiding 16 common constraints that would improve planning and environmental review and expedite the delivery of transportation projects.** Common constraints are grouped under six objectives: improve public involvement and support; improve resource agency involvement and collaboration; demonstrate agency commitment to the project; improve internal communication and coordination; streamline decision making; and integrate the process across all phases of project delivery. While initially focused on the planning and environmental phases of project delivery, the research found that **strategies implemented in the early phases of project development can typically provide expedited benefits in subsequent phases.**

The likely severity of the effects on delay and cost of not addressing a constraint are categorized as low, medium, or high. Multiple strategies are suggested for each severity category. A worksheet included in the companion website allows the user to quickly identify the types of issues and/or constraints that could cause delay within their project scope, and offers mitigation strategies for each constraint. These strategies not only contribute to reducing project delays, they provide

Expediting project delivery

FOCUS AREA: Capacity (C19)

User-friendly guide and worksheet with strategies and tactics to identify, reduce, or eliminate project delays.

Save Money

- Lower project costs result from expedited delivery.
- Improved public trust is gained through on-time and on-budget project delivery.



Save Time

- Fewer project delays occur as a result of early identification and resolution of project issues.
- Applying proven strategies leads to faster resolution of conflicts.



innovative approaches to improve transportation decision making. The strategies that are useful throughout the project delivery process include:

- ▶ Strategy 1: Change-Control Practices
- ▶ Strategy 2: Consolidated Decision Council
- ▶ Strategy 3: Context-Sensitive Design and Solutions
- ▶ Strategy 4: Coordinated and Responsive Agency Involvement
- ▶ Strategy 5: Dispute-Resolution Process
- ▶ Strategy 6: Department of Transportation-Funded Resource Agency Liaisons
- ▶ Strategy 7: Early Commitment of Construction Funding
- ▶ Strategy 8: Expedited Internal Review and Decision Making
- ▶ Strategy 9: Facilitation to Align Expectations Up Front
- ▶ Strategy 10: Highly Responsive Public Engagement
- ▶ Strategy 11: Incentive Payments to Expedite Relocations
- ▶ Strategy 12: Media Relations Manager
- ▶ Strategy 13: Performance Standards
- ▶ Strategy 14: Planning and Environmental Linkages
- ▶ Strategy 15: Planning-Level Environmental Screening Criteria
- ▶ Strategy 16: Programmatic Agreement for Section 106
- ▶ Strategy 17: Programmatic or Batched Permitting
- ▶ Strategy 18: Real-Time Collaborative Interagency Reviews
- ▶ Strategy 19: Regional Environmental Analysis Framework
- ▶ Strategy 20: Risk Management
- ▶ Strategy 21: Strategic Oversight and Readiness Assessment
- ▶ Strategy 22: Team Co-location
- ▶ Strategy 23: Tiered National Environmental Policy Process
- ▶ Strategy 24: Up-Front Environmental Commitments

The Benefits

Reducing project delays saves more than time and money. This SHRP2 Solution offers **project delivery strategies that agencies can use to anticipate where delays are likely to occur. Agencies can then apply tested strategies to improve planning and environmental decision making while avoiding or minimizing delays during all phases of project development and delivery.**

How can you learn more?

For additional information, contact Damaris Santiago at FHWA, Damaris.Santiago@dot.gov; Keith Platte at AASHTO, kplatte@aaashto.org. The final report, *Expedited Planning and Environmental Review of Highway Projects*, is available online. The worksheet and strategies can be accessed through <https://fhwaapps.fhwa.dot.gov/planworks/>. Updates on current implementation efforts can be found at www.fhwa.dot.gov/GoSHRP2 or <http://SHRP2.transportation.org>.



About SHRP2 Implementation

The second Strategic Highway Research Program is a national partnership of key transportation organizations: the Federal Highway Administration, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and the Transportation Research Board. Together, these partners conduct research and deploy products that will help the transportation community enhance the productivity, boost the efficiency, increase the safety, and improve the reliability of the Nation's highway system.

Strategic Highway Research Program

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