

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) requires that the SDDOT sets aside 2 percent of the apportionments received from the National Highway Performance Program (NHPP); the Surface Transportation Program (STP); the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP); and the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) Program for transportation planning and research activities through the State Planning & Research (SPR) Program. As the state highway system and local roadway systems are intertwined, the SDDOT has developed this program to administer transportation planning studies at the local level with the use of a portion of these SPR funds on an application & award basis.

The State Planning and Research (SPR) Guide was created by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is charged with managing entrusted public funds efficiently and effectively while ensuring that Federal highway programs are conducted in compliance with Federal laws, regulations, and policies.

View FHWA Deputy Administrator J. Richard Capka's memo on Stewardship and Federal Highway Programs (January 8, 2003). FHWA also issued a June 22, 2001, memo on Policy on Stewardship and Oversight of the Federal Highway Programs. Other FHWA documents released by the Stewardship and Oversight Committee also can be found on FHWA's Web site.

States may use SP&R funds for planning and research. This guide addresses SP&R funds that may be used to research new knowledge areas; adapt findings to practical applications by developing new technologies; and transfer these technologies, including the process of dissemination, demonstration, training, and adoption of innovations by users. The use of SP&R funds by States and subrecipients is authorized by Title 23, U.S. Code, Section 505, and regulated by Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 420; State departments of transportation (DOT) are responsible for monitoring activities performed by staff of subrecipients that use SP&R funds.

One of the requirements for using SP&R funds is that the State DOT must develop its own unique management plan, which establishes a process for conducting its research and technology (R&T) program. The FHWA Division Administrator must certify the plan. The Transportation Research Board's (TRB) National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) report, "Guide for Developing a State Transportation Research Manual" is a support document for developing a management plan.

The process that State DOTs use to manage their research programs varies considerably. Procedures vary from State to State for developing the plan and selecting the projects. Most States work with universities and other stakeholders.

The Standing Committee on Research (SCOR)/Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Web site has posted a survey on research programs in State DOTs. Information about research policies, research oversight committees, project selection processes, and the presence of the Local Technical Assistance Program can be found in the survey.