LOCAL ROAD RESEARCH BOARD
MAKING A DIFFERENCE
LRRB Funding

• Legislatively funded (1959)
• Up to 1/2% of State Aid allocation devoted to local road research
• Research is:
  – Managed by the LRRB
  – Conducted by DOT, U of M, MnSCU, Consultants, etc.
  – Administered by Mn/DOT Research Services
LRRB Funding Supports:

- Research to improve local road:
  1. Design
  2. Construction
  3. Maintenance
  4. Environmental Compatibility

- Programs for implementing and monitoring research results (RIC)
LRRB Members
Rick West, Otter Tail County (Chair)
Mitch Anderson, Stearns County
Deb Bloom, City of Roseville
Bruce Hasbargen, Lk of Woods Cty
Steve Koehler, City of New Ulm
Laurie McGinnis, U of M – CTS
Sue Miller, Freeborn County
Tom Ravn, Mn/DOT OCIC
Julie Skallman, Mn/DOT State Aid
Linda Taylor, Mn/DOT Research Services

RIC Members
Rich Sanders, Polk County (Chair)
Tom Colbert, City of Eagan
Jim Grothaus, U of M – CTS
Jeff Hulsether, City of Brainerd
Maureen Jensen, Mn/DOT Materials and Road Research
Rick Kjonaas, Mn/DOT State Aid
Walt Leu, Mn/DOT State Aid, D1
Sue Miller, Freeborn County
Clark Moe, Mn/DOT Research Services
Mitch Rasmussen, Scott County
Tim Stahl, Jackson County
Ben Worel, Mn/DOT Research Services
LRRB/RIC Project Selection Process

1. Development of Proposals and Research Ideas/Needs
2. Develop Ideas into Proposals
3. LRRB Review and/or RIC Review
4. Develop a Technical Advisory Panel
5. LRRB & RIC Product Review
6. Complete
LRRB/RIC Project Selection Process

Methods used:

- Build on Completed Research
- Engage MCEA and CEAM Committees
- Open Solicitation
- Focus Groups
- Identifying Gaps
- Surveys
- Knowledge Building
- Responding to Off Cycle Needs
LRRB/RIC Project Selection Process

Methods used:
- Build on Completed Research
- Engage MCEA and CEAM Committees
- Open Solicitation

Example:
Mark Maloney (Shoreview Public Works Director) submitted a problem statement asking for assistance on what the best practice is for maintaining paved trails
LRRB/RIC Project Selection Process

1. Further define research need
2. Engage topic experts
3. Does solution already exist?
4. What are impacts of solution?
5. Notify submitter of status of idea
LRRB/RIC Project Selection Process

1. Further define research need?
2. Engage topic experts?
3. Does solution already exist?
4. What are impacts of solution?

Example:
Mn/DOT Research Services conducted a search for existing reports on the topic, finding no results. Worked with Mark Maloney to determine further needs/questions and developed a specific problem statement that addressed his needs.
LRRB/RIC Project Selection Process

Criteria for selection of projects to be funded:

1. Does it address a local transportation issue?
2. Can the result of the project be applied to many local agencies?
3. Does the result have a large potential impact?
LRRB/RIC Project Selection Process

Development of Proposals and Research Ideas/Needs

Develop Ideas into Proposals

LRRB Review and/or RIC Review

Develop a Technical Advisory Panel

LRRB & RIC Product Review

Complete

Criteria for selection of projects to be funded:

1. Does it address a local transportation issue?
2. Can the result of the project be applied to many local agencies?
3. Does the result have a large potential impact?

Example:
The LRRB reviewed/modified the problem statement to ensure it was applicable to all MN Cities and Counties and recommended working with Mn/DOT pavement maintenance expert Tom Wood in doing the research.
LRRB/RIC Project Selection Process

Development of Proposals and Research Ideas/Needs

Develop Ideas into Proposals

LRRB Review and/or RIC Review

Develop a Technical Advisory Panel

LRRB & RIC Product Review

Complete

- Identify/recruit local agency topic experts for TAP
- Difficult to recruit panel members; people are afraid they will have to lead
- Ensure idea submitted that they will not be required to lead project
LRRB/RIC Project Selection Process

- Identify/recruit local agency topic experts for TAP
- Difficult to recruit panel members; people are afraid they will have to lead
- Ensure idea submitted

Example:
Mn/DOT Research Services worked with Mark Maloney and Tom Wood and identified key people to be on the TAP, including City and Park representatives.
LRRB/RIC Project Selection Process

Development of Proposals and Research Ideas/Needs

Develop Ideas into Proposals

LRRB Review and/or RIC Review

Develop a Technical Advisory Panel

LRRB & RIC Product Review

Complete

Questions to ask of each completed project:

- Did the project make a successful step towards deploying a solution?
- Are the results of interest to LRRB constituents?
- Have the results been effectively disseminated?
- How did the contractor perform?
- Was the project funded appropriately?
- Did the LRRB get its money’s worth?
LRRB/RIC Project Selection Process

Questions to ask of each completed project:

- Did the project make a successful step towards deploying a solution?
- Are the results of interest to LRRB constituents?
- Have the results been effectively disseminated?
- How did the contractor perform?
- Was the project funded appropriately?
- Did the LRRB get its money's worth?

Example:
Research was completed including:
- investigating treatment methods,
- building and monitoring test sections,
- user survey
- developing recommendations
LRRB/RIC Project Selection Process

- Develop a Technical Advisory Panel
- LRRB & RIC Product Review
- LRRB Review and/or RIC Review
- Develop Ideas into Proposals
- Development of Proposals and Research Ideas/Needs

• Post completed project on the LRRB website [www.lrrb.org](http://www.lrrb.org)
• Notify constituents of completed project
• Implement through the RIC (Research Implementation Committee)
LRRB/RIC Project Selection Process

- Development of Proposals and Research Ideas/Needs
- Develop Ideas into Proposals
- LRRB Review and/or RIC Review
- Develop a Technical Advisory Panel
- LRRB & RIC Product Review
- Complete

Example:
After completion of the research, the project/report was assigned to the RIC to implement. The RIC reviewed and expanded the scope to address trail corridor management including:
- pavement,
- lighting,
- vegetation,
- drainage,
- furniture, etc.
LRRB/RIC Project Selection Process

1. Development of Proposals and Research Ideas/Needs
2. Develop Ideas into Proposals
3. LRRB Review and/or RIC Review
4. Develop a Technical Advisory Panel
5. LRRB & RIC Product Review
6. Complete

Example:
The RIC has developed a new TAP and is currently developing a 2-4 hour workshop that will synthesize several resources on trail corridor management, including an LRRB report recently completed on trail pavement preservation.
Projects Highlights:
Projects Highlights: Traffic Generators

- Best practices for MN engineers:
  - Outlines a process for interaction with developers of wind farms.
  - Gives direction on how to effectively deal with large construction (traffic generators)
- Downloadable interactive document includes:
  - Web links and reports
  - Sample ordinances, permits, agreements and maps
  - Calculator to quantify the traffic impact on roads
    - Being expanded to include other generators (i.e. garbage haulers)
  - Policy options to recapture roadway maintenance costs
Projects Highlights: “Sign Retroreflectivity – A Minnesota Toolkit”

- Provides guidance to agencies on developing a sign assessment or management method to meet the retroreflectivity requirements.
- The report provides information on:
  - Retroreflectivity requirements
  - Resources that are available
  - Summaries of various assessment and maintenance methods
  - Examples of sign inventories, policies and signing agreements (with other agencies).
Projects Highlights:
“Traffic Sign Maintenance/Mgmt Handbook”

• Provides guidance to agencies on developing and implementing sign management and maintenance practices and policies to meet the retroreflectivity requirements.

• The handbook provides information on:
  – Required Signs
  – Signs proven to change driver behavior or reduce crashes
  – Insight on removing unnecessary and ineffective signage

• The full report is available at:
Projects Highlights: Pavement Management DVD

- Pavement management systems assist with maintaining a network of roadways.
- The LRRB developed a series of tools:
  - DVD
  - Report/Guide
  - Case Studies
  - Matrix of software programs used in Minnesota
- These tools are available at: www.lrrb.org/pdf/2009RIC11.pdf