

FHWA/ ADA10/AASHTO Peer Exchange: Performance Outcomes Beyond the Mainstream

Overview

While transportation agencies have worked to integrate performance management practices into their planning and decision-making for several years, there is still a need to create new performance measurement practices that help foster a better quality of life. 'Beyond the Mainstream' performance measures look specifically at quality of life outcomes, such as accessibility, public health, and economic development. As quality of life concerns become increasingly important for transportation agencies, there will be even more of a need for 'beyond the mainstream' performance measurement.

On June 20, 2014, the Transportation Research Board's Statewide Multimodal Planning Committee, in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) held a one-day peer exchange on 'beyond the mainstream' performance measures in Scottsdale, Arizona. Approximately 30 practitioners from over 20 states participated in the discussions regarding performance measures for quality of life concerns.

Practitioner Presentations

The peer exchange focused on performance measurement of accessibility, economic development, and health impacts of transportation. Practitioners made presentations about current practices related to 'beyond the mainstream' measures to help enhance the discussion. Each presenter provided background information on the work their agency conducted, highlighting key challenges and research needs. The three presentations of the day were:

- **Accessibility.** Andrew Owen of the University of Minnesota (UMN) and Brian McLafferty of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) discussed the work their organizations are doing to assess and map accessibility.
- **Economic Development.** Charlie Howard of the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) shared the work his organization is doing to improve economic development through the Vision 2040 Plan.
- **Health.** Frank Gallivan of ICF International presented an overview of current work by transportation agencies on health issues. Additionally, David Wasserman of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) shared his agency's conversations around incorporating health in performance measurement practices.

Breakout Discussions on Performance Measures

Following the practitioner presentations and associated discussions, the peer exchange also included breakout discussions to review potential performance measures that could be utilized in decision making applications. Breakout groups were asked to identify gaps in current practices and suggest future research to address gaps. Each breakout group looked at three types of decision-making applications for measures: Long range planning/ strategy development, project prioritization, and monitoring. The groups were given a matrix of performance measures in use, collected from the pre-survey, and questions regarding the measures to guide the discussions. The peer exchange summary report provides detailed summaries of each group's discussion and conclusions.

Research and Technical Assistance Topics

A few of the research and technical assistance topics identified at the peer exchange as top priorities include:

- **Research Topics:** successful applications in decision making; health datasets that could have applications in transportation planning
- **Technical Assistance:** support broader use of existing tools for accessibility; support continued dialogue on methodological questions and communicating accessibility outcomes; develop and pilot a model process for collaboration between economic development agencies and transportation agencies; provide opportunities for transportation agencies to exchange information with health agencies

The peer exchange summary report can be found at: http://www.planning.dot.gov/Peer/Arizona/scottsdale_6-20-14_performance_outcomes.pdf