

TRB Research Needs Statement (RNS)

Template for TRB RNS Database

This template matches the fields that users will see when entering information into the TRB RNS Database - <https://rns.trb.org>.

The back of this document also contains [Guidance & Help](#).

Required fields*

<i>Title*</i> Briefly and immediately convey what the proposed study is about	
<i>Background /Description*</i> This background statement is an opportunity to convince the reviewer that the research statement addresses a serious issue and merits funding. It should set the context and relate the particular issue to larger national or regional goals and objectives	
<i>Objective*</i> Short, concise, and accurate description of what the expected product of this research will be	
Potential Benefits A justification of the funding of the research statement. Be specific and provide as much detail as possible on the potential benefits of the project.	
Related Research An explanation of how this research is different from other work on the same or similar topics.	
Tasks Specific tasks that absolutely have to be part of the research statement	

Implementation Follow-on research and implementation that demonstrates the scale and scope of the research, the potential barriers and impediments to implementation, and the activities and champions needed to support the end work.				
Funding	☐ Less than \$100,000 ☐ \$100,000 - \$200,000 ☐ \$200,000 - \$300,000 ☐ More than \$300,000			
Research Period	☐ Shorter than 6 months ☐ 6 – 12 months ☐ 12 – 24 months ☐ 24 – 36 months ☐ Longer than 36 months			
Research Priority	☐ High ☐ Medium ☐ Low			
Relevance Potential users of the research results.				
Source Information Sources of relevant research. Committee members, workshops, conferences.				
RNS Developer Individual(s) responsible for developing this statement				
Sponsoring Committee(s)* Primary committee responsible for developing this statement Add additional sponsoring committees.				
Subject Categories* Select at least one or up to five categories	<table border="1" data-bbox="443 1814 1336 1898"> <tr> <td data-bbox="443 1814 889 1898"> ☐ Administration and Management ☐ Aviation ☐ Bridges and other structures </td> <td data-bbox="889 1814 1336 1898"> ☐ Materials ☐ Motor Carriers ☐ Operations and Traffic Management </td> </tr> </table>		☐ Administration and Management ☐ Aviation ☐ Bridges and other structures	☐ Materials ☐ Motor Carriers ☐ Operations and Traffic Management
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	__ Construction __ Data and Information Technology __ Design __ Economics __ Education and Training __ Energy __ Environment __ Finance __ Freight Transportation __ Geotechnology __ Highways __ History __ Hydraulics and Hydrology __ Law __ Maintenance and Preservation __ Marine Transportation	__ Passenger Transportation __ Pavements __ Pedestrians and Bicyclists __ Pipelines __ Planning and Forecasting __ Policy __ Public Transportation __ Railroads __ Research __ Safety and Human Factors __ Security and Emergencies __ Society __ Terminals and Facilities __ Transportation (General) __ Vehicles and Equipment	
Special Note on “Index Terms” Users will not find a data entry field for Index Terms, but will see these terms in a RNS that resides in the database. This field is populated by TRB indexing staff after the RNS has been entered to the website. TRB indexing staff add indexing terms from the Transportation Research Thesaurus – http://trt.trb.org As you collaborate and develop the RNS, you may wish to provide some suggested key words.			

Guidance and Help

- Detailed descriptions of the fields can be found in “[Appendix A: How to Write an Effective Research Statement](#)” from the online guidebook “*Funding Sources for Transportation Research: Competitive Programs.*”
- RNS developers and Committee Research Coordinators (CRC) are encouraged to review the “*Successful Practices and Tools for Developing TRB Research Needs Statements (RNS)*”; http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/dva/crc/DEVELOPING_RNS-SP-TOOLS.pdf.
- RNS developed by individual members should not be entered without a peer review and approval by the standing committee or task force. Subcommittee RNS may be entered if they have been approved by the parent standing committee. The RNS must not include specific recommendations as to what agency or organization should conduct the research.
- Once authorized, editors should navigate to the website and log in with user name and password to add, modify or delete their committees’ research needs statements.

For questions about statements in the RNS database or how to access the RNS database contact: James W. Bryant Senior Program Officer Transportation Research Board Phone: (202) 334-2087 Email: jbryant@nas.edu	For general questions or comments about the RNS database contact: Bill McLeod TRIS Manager Transportation Research Board Email: tris-trb@nas.edu
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