Developing Effective GDOT Research Need Statements

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Talking Points

Research Need Statement...

• Significance
• Composition
• Optimization
• Submittal
• Approval
• Questions
RNS: Significance

• Basic means of initiating GDOT research
  – Required for all *core* GDOT research projects
  – Required for both external and *internal* partners

• Basic means of communicating research need
  – Communication piece for GDOT decision-makers
    • Sponsoring office(s) [end-users]
    • Funding review groups [RTAG’s]
    • Executive management
  – Should be written with *all* of these groups in mind
    • Clear statements of need, novelty, approach, and benefits
    • Comprehensible by *general* transportation audience
RNS: Composition

- Title
- Problem statement
- Literature search
- Research objective
- Implementation prospects
- Research significance
- Project duration
- Cost estimate
RNS: Composition (II)

- Statement developer(s)
- Investigator(s)
- Agency (i.e. institution)
- Date of submittal
- GDOT office(s) supporting
- Technical/implementation manager
- References
- Confidentiality statement
RNS: Optimization

• Things to Emphasize
  – *Understanding* of research need or problem to be solved
  – Clear project objectives
  – Implementation prospects
    • Per your understanding, if objectives are reached
    • Low- or high-risk research?
  – Significance of research to GDOT
    • Explicit statement of final product and its use(s)
    • Realistic B/C ratio
RNS: Optimization (II)

• Things to Avoid
  − Poor editing, proofreading, and formatting
  − Writing a book
  − Cursory literature search; full-blown literature review
  − Big budgets for first projects
  − Unrealistic schedules (think float)
  − Promising the moon
  − Criticism of GDOT (think win-win)
RNS: Submittal

- One general RNS solicitation per year
  - Mid-August to mid-September
  - Preliminary discussion with GDOT sponsor(s) encouraged

- Upload to GTI portal (site)

- Confidentiality
  - Intellectual property is highly respected...
  - RNS review limited to relevant GDOT staff
RNS: Approval

• Sponsoring office(s) head(s)

• Research Technical Advisory Groups (RTAG’s)
  − Funding review groups
  − Aligned with GDOT strategic goals
  − Research staff decide which RTAG reviews RNS

• Research Advisory Committee
  − Chief Engineer and Division Directors
  − Normally review RTAG recommendations in February
  − Majority vote

• Announcement of projects selected for funding
  − Follow-up enquiries are acceptable
KEEP CALM AND ASK QUESTIONS