



# RESEARCH NEEDS STATEMENTS



## TRB LAUNCHES RNS DATABASE IN 2007

An important function of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) is to stimulate research that addresses concerns, issues, or problems facing the transportation community. The TRB Technical Activities Division standing committees support this function by identifying, developing, and disseminating research needs statements (RNS). The RNS Database contains a dynamic collection of research needs statements by the TRB standing committees and reflects the highest priority research needs at any time in the view of the committees. The collection of research needs statements will be augmented and kept up to date by the TRB standing committees as part of their regular portfolio of activities.

The database provides a shopping list for all those in the transportation research community who fund and conduct transportation research, including TRB's cooperative research programs, federal agencies, state departments of transportation, university faculty and students, consultants, and others. In addition, it is expected that the Technical Activities Council, Groups, Sections, and standing committees in the Technical Activities Division will use the database as a tool in conducting strategic reviews of transportation research needs in their subject areas, including the setting of research priorities and the identification of gaps.

Research needs statements can be searched through simple or advanced query screens, or browsed by committee or subject.

The RNS Database can be accessed at: <http://rns.trb.org>

A summary of currently posted research needs statements and an indication of the users of the database appears on the opposite side of this page.

One hundred thirty five standing committees and task forces have already posted over 700 statements in the following subject areas\*:

<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>RNS</b>
Administration and Management	69
Aviation	16
Construction	223
Data and Information Technology	76
Design	325
Education and Training	33
Energy and Environment	61
Finance and Economics	34
Freight	27
Highways	614
History	3
Intermodal	53
Maintenance	51
Marine	6
Materials	69
Motor Carriers	11
Operations and Traffic Management	179
Pavements	89
Pedestrians and Bicyclists	64
Pipelines	1
Planning	158
Policy and Legal Issues	56
Public Transportation	127
Railroads	17
Research	4
Safety and Human Factors	145
Security	21
Societal	40
Soils and Geology	70
Structures	79
Vehicles	28

\* Note: a single RNS can be assigned to more than one subject area

Approximately 17,000 users have accessed the RNS Database since TRB announced it to the public three months ago.