

Transformational Technologies: Can Our Research Processes Keep Up

Summary of Meeting Agenda:

- Review of previous activities
 - This session part of an ongoing effort to Identify steps that agencies, TRB and others can take to help enhance the abilities of transportation agencies to conduct and deliver quality research within timeframes consistent with the pace of rapidly evolving transformational technologies, especially automated vehicle technology
- Through a facilitated discussion, the group discussed
 1. What are the areas of greatest potential to move to a more timely and strategic research approach?
 2. What are some ways we can accomplish that transformation?
 3. Are there models from other sectors that we should be looking at?

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Summary of Key Findings/Lessons Learned from Breakout Discussion:

Identification of ways to improve the research process:

- Look for ways to not only speed up existing processes but also to make processes more effective
 - Consider the EU Public-Private-Academic Partnership Model
- Recognize various expectations – government versus private expectations
- Need to have clearer definitions of strata of research – some larger, complex projects and other smaller, shorter time frame projects
- Recognize need for a different research culture that is more nimble – reflective of transformational technologies
- Look for ways to make the research needs process more continuous and more visible, e.g., a research needs dashboard

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Recommended Action Items:

- Comments and feedback will be synthesized
- Synthesis will be presented to the TRB Conduct of Research Committee
- Group will look for additional ways to share results
 - Summary flyer
 - More in-depth report
 - Distribute/publicize/present at webinars, sessions, etc.