



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ON TRANSPORTATION BRIEFING PAPERS

*Due Wednesday 31 March 2010 at 4:00pm EDT*

### INTRODUCTION

The AASHTO Center for Excellence in Project Finance ([www.transportation-finance.org](http://www.transportation-finance.org)) invites interested parties to submit proposals for research on one or both of two topics selected pursuant to a Call for Briefing Papers sent to AASHTO's state DOT membership. The topics are:

- Use of Advance Construction in Financing Transportation Projects
- Using Performance Management Practices to Support Funding and Finance Initiatives

### BACKGROUND

The Center for Excellence in Project Finance, authorized by SAFETEA-LU, is a cooperative effort between AASHTO and USDOT. As part of its mission to support state departments of transportation in the areas of financial planning and project development, the Center undertakes objective research into financial management and policy issues. The Briefing Paper research that is the subject of this Request for Proposals is part of the Center's ongoing work.

### RESEARCH TOPICS

#### Use of Advance Construction in Financing Transportation Projects

Certain state DOTs use advance construction (AC) in conjunction with financing projects in their annual construction program. Other states make little or no use of AC. This research request is for a review of AC practices across the country with emphasis on evaluating the potential benefits and challenges of using AC and identifying best practices.

#### Using Performance Management Practices to Support Funding and Finance Initiatives

Many state transportation agencies have adopted sophisticated performance management practices. Currently, such practices – and related research – focus primarily on the use of system-oriented measures by DOTs to support strategic planning decisions and provide greater public accountability. Research is needed to explore how states' transportation performance management practices can be expanded to support their funding and finance activities more directly.

### RESEARCH PARAMETERS

To generate practical research in a timely manner, Briefing Papers are expected to range from 15-20 pages and be developed in a 1-2 month period.



## PROPOSAL CONTENT

Proposals should be limited to three pages (excluding a one-page cover letter and resumes of no more than three pages.) Please identify which of the two topics described above you propose to study and describe: (i) your understanding of the topic, including related work that you have completed or have underway; (ii) your approach to conducting the requested research; (iii) in light of the specified research parameters, the research scope that you believe will be practical and useful to state DOTs; (iv) the anticipated final product; and (v) the principal author of this product and support staff.

## COMPENSATION

While depending on the scope of research, compensation for each Briefing Paper generally is anticipated to be limited to \$20,000 (including any travel or other out-of-pocket expenses). AASHTO CEPF will pay for publication costs.

## QUESTIONS

Please contact Joung Lee at AASHTO (202.624.5818 or [jlee@ashto.org](mailto:jlee@ashto.org)) with any questions related to the Briefing Paper process.

## PROPOSAL SCHEDULE.\*

The schedule for receipt and review of proposals, selection of a research team for each topic, and development, review, and publication of the two Briefing Papers is as follows:

March 15	Posting of the Request for Proposals
March 31	Proposals due by 4:00PM EDT via email to <a href="mailto:jlee@ashto.org">jlee@ashto.org</a>
April 12	Notification of recommended research team for each Briefing Paper topic
April 12-16	Meeting/conference call with selected proposers to confirm research process and schedule
June 4	Submission of substantially complete Briefing Paper draft to AASHTO CEPF
June 25	Submission of final Briefing Paper to AASHTO CEPF

*\*Subject to change.*

