



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

Transitioning Evidence-based Road Safety Research into Practice

Sponsors: FHWA, NCHRP, Insurance Institute for Highway Safety - June 2022 to June 2024

Statement of Task

A National Academies [consensus study committee](#) will examine the influence of safety research on the practice of road safety and the tools and resources used by practitioners. In particular, consideration will be given to road safety research to obtain their views on the functioning and effectiveness of the current research-to-practice process and understanding these factors and their interactions.

A National Academies consensus study committee is examining the influence of safety research on the practice of road safety and the tools and resources used by practitioners. The focus is on how evidence-based road safety research is produced and disseminated and used to inform the planning, design, and operations of road infrastructure. Among the questions being considered are these:

- How are road safety research topics selected for funding?
- How are objective and evidence-based research findings produced?
- How is the research validated and by whom?
- How can the process of moving objective safety research into standards and guidance documents be streamlined?
- What are the main guides, tools, , and other resources that transportation planners, highway designers, traffic engineers, and other safety professionals consult when making design and engineering choices affecting the safety of the roadway environment?
- To what extent are these practitioner resources informed and influenced by evidence-based research? What assurance exists to prevent deficient or absent research results are not used?
- In cases where there are gaps in evidence-based research, are there effective mechanisms for ensuring that these gaps are filled with needed research?
- How can the dialogue between the research community and the practitioner community be improved to ensure that immediate safety research needs are met while also supporting more strategic road safety research?

The committee will explore equivalent processes from other fields such as medicine, public health, and education, as well as other engineering-oriented fields such as building design and construction. The committee will also examine the processes by which evidence-based research is programmed and conducted to produce reliable and useable results for practitioners, including the research prioritization process. It will consider ways to make sustained improvements to the road safety research-to-practice process. Based on these assessments and the professional judgment of its members, the committee will recommend actions and strategies to improve the road safety research-to-practice process.

The committee process includes review of policy and research documents, talking with experts in government at all levels, safety researchers from a variety of fields, and consulting with international experts in Europe and Australia. The 12-person committee is open to ideas for additional avenues to pursue and sources to examine.



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Committee on Transitioning Evidence-Based Research into Practice Public Roster

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