



Caltrans Division of Research,
Innovation and System Information

Research

Notes

Research
Support

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Project Title:
Outreach and Technology Transfer:
Communications for Accelerating
Adoption of Innovation

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Communications for Accelerating Adoption of Innovation

Promoting and facilitating knowledge transfer to ensure that Caltrans research results are accessible for use in practical processes

WHAT IS THE NEED?

Economic, political, and environmental pressures are making it harder than ever to deliver safe, efficient, effective surface transportation. Caltrans Division of Research, Innovation and System Information (DRISI) produces valuable research results that can help our public agencies do their jobs better, build and maintain our infrastructure over a longer lifespan at a lower cost, manage our resources more efficiently, operate our transportation systems and work zones more safely, and reduce congestion and delay to the public.

However, convincing an agency to adopt a new technology or process is challenging, even when the research indicates that the new technology or new process has obvious advantages over whatever technology or process it is intended to replace.

This creates a need for effectively promoting and facilitating knowledge transfer to ensure that Caltrans research results are accessible to the end user for use in practical processes and other researchers to diminish redundant research.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Written communications, in both print and electronic formats, remain a mainstay of the technology transfer process. Tech Transfer publications are produced jointly by subject matter experts who identify timely, relevant topics and provide quality content and technical oversight, and communications and graphic design professionals who understand the audience and how to use the media effectively.



DRISI provides solutions and
knowledge that improves
California's transportation system

Communications specialists, library, and information professionals ensure that research publications and final reports reach their target audience, are accessible internationally, and are adequately archived.

Tech Transfer training and workshops further support technology transfer goals by expanding the communication and research skills and abilities of Caltrans staff through internal training workshops and open forums with other agencies and stakeholders.

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

The objective is to achieve successful technology transfer by moving preliminary investigations and research results from awareness to decision to adopt, and ultimately to implementation. This takes sustained and multi-pronged outreach efforts. This project supports that effort.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

The project provides these following benefits:

- Communicates the progress of research at the beginning of a research project, and the results of research at the end of a research project.
- Distributes copies of research final reports from Caltrans sponsored research projects to California's depository libraries. UC Berkeley's and Northwestern University's transportation libraries, the National Transportation Library, The Library of Congress, and the National Technical Information Service.
- Enters Caltrans sponsored research publications into the international TRID database and California and national electronic repositories.
- Assists Caltrans in finding existing solutions to problems, and when existing solutions can't be found, helps Caltrans ensure thoughtful and appropriate research investment and well-formulated research projects by conducting Preliminary Investigations, and by training Caltrans staff to conduct preliminary Investigations.

- Provides interactive forums where potential adopters can learn about transportation innovation, see it in action, and discuss it and its application with colleagues and experts.

WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

Tech Transfer has:

- Produced 117 Research Results: 38 for research tasks ending in Fiscal Year (FY) 11/12; 44 for FY ending in 12/13; and 35 for FY ending in 13/14.
- Produced the DRISI Annual Research Program Highlights for FY 11/12, FY 12/13, and FY 13/14.
- Distributed 125 research final reports.
- Processed 583 publications into TRID and the electronic repositories
- Completed ten Preliminary Investigations.
- Delivered eight workshops.

Work is currently underway on the following:

- FY 14/15 research results
- FY 14/15 Annual Program Highlights Report
- Two workshops
- Ongoing publication distribution and cataloging