

What is the Domestic Scan Program?

The NCHRP U.S. Domestic Scan Program (NCHRP Project 20-68A) recognizes the value of **person-to-person exchange of new technologies and practices** in a setting that facilitates “hands on” learning.

- Launched in 2006
- Funds up to three scans per year
- Puts state and federal DOT practitioners in touch with innovative peers around the country, speeding the transfer of technology and know-how
- One- or two-week traveling scans with visits to five to seven states, or centralized peer exchanges/workshops
- Program details at domesticscan.org



During the intense experience of the scan, participants...

- **See firsthand** how a new technology or practice works in the real world
- Develop **close professional relationships** that remain readily available to them even years later

Why are Scans Effective?

A scan focuses on **face-to-face discussion** of current experience.

- Hastens the movement of tested **new ideas into widespread practice**
- Develops professional **connections that reach across agencies and geography**
- Provides opportunity for a **unique rich exchange of information**
- Generates a sharing mechanism that is **difficult or impossible to replicate** through written materials, telephone conversations or e-mail correspondence
- Complements published research and professional conferences by **reducing the time lag between the successful application** of a new idea and the point at which others learn about it



Experience and research show the peer-to-peer communication is one of the most effective ways of learning.

How are Scan Topics Proposed?

An AASHTO committee or AASHTO member (state DOT) may [submit a scan topic for consideration](#).

- Suggest **leading-edge topics** that they and other states would like to learn more about
- Commonly involves recently developed technologies or approaches that are **not widely adopted** but that some states—including possibly the submitter’s—are pioneering
- Present a **thoughtful case for a scan**, especially if the topic hasn’t been explored by previous scans

If a proposed topic is accepted as one of the funded scans...

- Proposing state may **volunteer to be a “host state”** to be visited by the scan team
- Someone from that state will likely be **invited to participate on the scan team** as a member or chair