

# Center for Environmental Excellence by AASHTO

The **Center for Environmental Excellence** by AASHTO offers a wide range of products and services to assist transportation agencies in achieving environmental excellence in delivering their transportation programs and projects. Through its information-sharing, technical assistance, partnership-building and training resources, the Center helps transportation agencies incorporate environmental compliance, sustainability, and stewardship into transportation planning, project development, construction, maintenance, and operations.

The **Center Advisory Board**, with representatives from the AASHTO committees covering environment, planning, project development, design, construction, maintenance, operations and public transit, oversees the work of the Center. The Center works closely with the AASHTO committees and their members to tailor its products and services to the environmental needs of the state transportation agencies and their partners.

Advisory groups comprised of state and federal transportation agency professionals, as well as environmental resource agencies, oversee the Center work to ensure that the products and services are easy to use, customer-focused, and based on sound planning, environmental, and engineering concepts and principles. An annual Center work plan is developed and posted on the Center web site.

## Center Products and Services Highlights

- **Web Site:** The web site at <http://environment.transportation.org> serves as a one-stop source of environmental information for transportation professionals. Over 20 environmental topic areas are covered.
- **Practitioner's Handbook Series:** The handbooks provide practical advice on a range of environmental issues that arise during the planning, development, maintenance, and operation of transportation projects and programs. They are downloadable from the Center web site.
- **Peer Exchanges:** The peer exchanges facilitate discipline-focused and interdisciplinary discussion of environmental issues and problems facing transportation agencies.
- **Webcasts/Webinars:** The Webcasts/webinars provide training to advance the state-of-the practice on important topics and are archived on the Center web site.
- **Communities of Practice:** The Center facilitates an on-going dialogue with a group of invited transportation practitioners in the topic areas of air quality, storm water management, and historic bridges. The dialogue is facilitated by a senior technical expert and summaries of important issues are available on the Center web site.
- **Transportation Environmental Research:** The Center's Transportation Environmental Research Ideas Database (TERI) on the Center's web site serves as storehouse for tracking and sharing transportation and environment research ideas in over 20 topic areas. The Center coordinates a comprehensive AASHTO committee review of the TERI ideas, development of research problem statements, and submission of the problem statements to the National Cooperative Research Program and Surface Transportation Environment and Planning Research Program.
- **Programmatic Agreement Library:** The library on the Center web site provides a compilation of executed programmatic agreements to streamline compliance and enhance environmental stewardship.
- **How Can We Assist You?** The Center's products and services are intended to serve your needs. If you have a particular need for environmental information, technical assistance, partnership-building, or training, you can communicate that need with AASHTO via the Center's web site at: [http://environment.transportation.org/global/share\\_info.aspx](http://environment.transportation.org/global/share_info.aspx).



## Web Site

### One Stop Source of Environmental Information for Transportation Professionals

<http://environment.transportation.org>

The Center web site is a resource to provide technical assistance, training, information exchange, partnership-building opportunities and quick and easy access to environmental tools. The web site features a menu of resources including:

- **Environmental Issues Section** covers over 20 environmental topics. Each topic area includes an overview, recent developments, research, documents and reports, case studies, and relevant organizations and training.
- **Center Products and Programs** provides links to Center training and resource materials such as annual best practices competition reports, Practitioner's Handbooks, prerecorded webcasts and webinars, and peer exchange and conference powerpoints.
- **Communities of Practice Forums** provides a venue for professionals to discuss and exchange information, experiences, ideas, and best practices related to air quality, stormwater management and historic bridges. Each of the communities produces state of the practice reports that are posted on the Center web site.
- **Case Law Updates Database (CLUE)** is a storehouse for environmental case law. The database includes recent court decisions involving challenges to environmental reviews and permits for highway and transit projects.
- **Programmatic Agreements Library** provides a compilation of executed programmatic agreements to streamline environmental compliance and enhance environmental stewardship.
- **Transportation and Environmental Research Database (TERI)** serves as a storehouse for tracking and sharing transportation and environment research ideas in over 20 topic areas. Suggestions for new ideas are solicited from practitioners across the transportation and environmental community.
- **Research News** describes the various federal transportation and environmental research programs and provides links to the Transportation Research Board Environmental Committees.
- **Get Web Site Updates** enables practitioners to receive weekly emails highlighting new Center web site content. Practitioners are able to customize the notices for specific sections of the web site.
- **Broadcast Emails** enables practitioners to subscribe to an email service to be alerted of the Center's new projects, programs and initiatives.
- **Meeting and Events Calendar** provides information on key meetings and events of interest.
- **Share Info with AASHTO** enables practitioners to submit comments, suggestions and recommendations for best practices, improving the Center's web site, and to share research and reports.