

Structure, Geotechnical and Seismic Research Division of Engineering Services

The California Department of Transportation (Department) is the manager of interregional transportation services; more specifically, the Department has the traditional role of owner and operator of the 15,000 miles of the State Highway System. The Department promotes California's economic vitality and enhances its citizens' quality of life by providing for the movement of people, goods, services, and information. The Department is responsible for the delivery of the State's Transportation Improvement Program: planning, designing, building, operating, and maintaining California's State Highway System.

The Department plans and conducts research aimed at improving the State Highway System. Research is guided by the Department's Research and Deployment Steering Committee (RDSC). The RDSC in turn uses Program Steering Committees (PSC) and Technical Advisory Panels (TAP) to assist it in developing the research agenda and in the deployment of research findings and products. The functional Divisions within the Department lead the PSC. The TAPs are founded in the Divisions and its members are taken from technical experts throughout the Department and external agencies.

The RDSC formulates the Department's strategic goals and objectives for research. It oversees the development of Roadmaps and Strategic Research Questions to ensure that research is aligned with the Department's strategic direction. The Caltrans Structure and Geotechnical Technical Advisory Panels (STAP/GTAP) develop and manage the structure, geotechnical, and seismic research at Caltrans.

The STAP and GTAP welcome ideas and suggestions for research at all times. Research investigators, engineering practitioners, educators, and the general public are all encouraged to submit ideas and suggestions. All ideas and suggestions will be given consideration by the STAP and GTAP. These ideas and suggestions, along with the Department's own, may form the basis for future research. Ideas and suggestions may also positively affect the Department's Strategic Goals and Objectives.

From time to time the STAP and GTAP may actively solicit ideas and suggestions for research. The STAP and GTAP have a web site to facilitate the preparation and submittal of ideas and suggestions for future research. It is located at: <http://dot.ca.gov/rpm>. Interested parties can register with the site, provide contact information, and prepare and manage their ideas and suggestions. The detailed form used to describe ideas and suggestions will make it easier to evaluate them against those of other contributors and against the Department's strategic research objectives.

The ideas and suggestions for future research submitted to STAP and GTAP will not necessarily form the basis of any future research. In addition, any research that might arise from the many ideas and suggestions received will not necessarily conform to any one particular idea or suggestion. Frequently the STAP and STAP will modify and combine the ideas and suggestions from several contributors to develop and plan potential future research projects. Should any idea or suggestion submitted result in a solicitation of formal research projects any eligible person or organization can submit a proposal regardless of the origin of the research idea.

Questions regarding the submittal of ideas or suggestions for future research can be directed at Charles Sikorsky at 916-227-8759 or email at csikosky@dot.ca.gov.