



MassDOT SPRII Research Problem Statement Solicitation Form Guidance

Problem Statement Submitter/Project Champion

Submitter/Project Champion Information

Name, Title, and Email.

Note: The submitter may or may not be a MassDOT or MBTA employee. If the submitter is not a MassDOT or MBTA employee, they must obtain endorsement in writing from a MassDOT or MBTA employee who is a subject matter expert on the topic. If the idea is selected to be a funded project, the MassDOT or the MBTA proponent will become the project champion, assuming responsibilities including serving as the technical representative and client for the duration of the project, developing a scope of work, and leading implementation of the research results.

Division/ Unit/Office

Identify the Project Champion's MassDOT or MBTA Division/Unit/Enterprise – e.g., MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning Multimodal Section or MassDOT Highway Division Bridge Section.

Co-Project Champion

Identify Co-Project Champion. Co-Project Champions must also be MassDOT or MBTA employees. We strongly encourage you to identify co-champions if your proposed topic is highly relevant to other Division/Section's core responsibilities.

Problem Statement Title and Subject

Project Title

Provide a title for the project. The title should directly reflect the essence of the proposed research and yet be succinct.

Note: Per 23 U.S.C. 505 research projects funded through the SPRII Work Program must be related to highway, public transportation, and intermodal transportation systems. MassDOT only funds applied research and development projects, which means these projects systematic and actively use the knowledge or understanding gained from research to produce useful materials, devices, systems, or methods, including design and development of prototypes and processes.

Problem Statement

Problem Statement and Research Objectives

Problem Statement and Objectives: Provide a brief statement of your research need. A research need is an issue, problem, or lack of information that our organization is facing which can be solved by finding solutions through research. Provide a list of objectives expected to be met by the research described in the problem statement.

Anticipated Products

Provide a statement of the expected deliverables and products, including tools, prototypes, standards, specifications, new or modified materials, policies or processes, data, etc.

Benefits to MassDOT/MBTA

Provide a brief explanation of how the anticipated products will advance the strategic goals and mission of MassDOT. Address urgency, timeliness, and importance of the research. When applicable, identify if the research is required for any federal or state initiative or compliance.

Implementation Strategy

Describe how the anticipated results of this project would be implemented; explain if any specifications, methods, systems, processes, or policies may be changed based on the results. Identify the MassDOT Division/Office responsible for implementation.

Preliminary Literature Search

Conducting a preliminary literature search, while not required for submitting a problem statement, can help determine if the proposed research has already been conducted in part or in full by another organization. The [Transport Research International Documentation](#) (TRID) database is a convenient place to conduct a preliminary literature review. If the submitter is aware of any agencies or organizations that have conducted studies related to the problem statement, please provide that information as well.

Additional Information

Estimated Cost

Provide your best judgement of approximate cost, if known, to accomplish the research project tasks. Consideration should be given to labor, equipment and supplies, and indirect costs.

Estimated Duration

Provide the estimated duration (in months) to conduct the research and achieve project objectives. Please note that projects selected often launch near the beginning of the following calendar year.

Estimated Completion Date

If applicable, provide any known deadline you need the results of the research by.

Additional Documents

Please provide additional information or documentation that will help with the evaluation of the problem statement.