

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING



Vision

The Standing Committee on Planning is AASHTO's recognized planning and policy resource for shaping the future of transportation.

Mission

Provide AASHTO and its members with planning expertise, a forum for collaborative policy development and problem solving; and be the catalyst for innovation and a source of technical excellence.

Introduction and Background

The AASHTO Standing Committee on Planning (SCOP) provides AASHTO and its member DOTs with leadership, research and guidance regarding transportation planning policy and practice. SCOP developed this updated 2011 Strategic Plan to help ensure that its work adequately reflects the priorities, issues, and needs of SCOP members. In addition, SCOP wishes to ensure its policies and efforts are aligned appropriately with the overall AASHTO Strategic Plan. Further, reviewing and updating the strategic plan provides an important opportunity for SCOP to engage its full membership in the Committee's work.

SCOP's Strategic Plan is comprised of goals, strategies, and actions and provides a higher-level view of the direction of the Committee. The SCOP goals articulated in this document reflect the Committee's desire to remain at the forefront of transportation planning policy and practice and to help lead the planning community into the complex, dynamic world of 21st Century transportation issues and challenges. In addition, the goals both respond to and support the AASHTO Strategic Plan, thereby providing a self-reinforcing approach to coordination of AASHTO priorities with SCOP activities.



The strategies and actions articulated under each goal provide SCOP with achievable, measured steps by which progress may be made today those goals. Because most of SCOP's work occurs through its subcommittees, an important element of this document is the matrix of actions and subcommittee assignments. To ensure the Strategic Plan's relevance and achievability, SCOP will review, evaluate, and update this document on a regular basis.

SCOP's 2011 Strategic Plan encompasses strategies and actions that support five key goals:

Goal 1: Provide Leadership in Transportation Planning and Policy Issues

Goal 2: Facilitate Research and Technical Support for Improving Transportation Planning

Goal 3: Facilitate Continuous and Effective Communication on Transportation Planning Issues Among Transportation Planning Practitioners

Goal 4: Coordinate Internally and Externally on Transportation Planning Policies, Practices, and Issues

Goal 5: Enhance Service Provision to SCOP Members

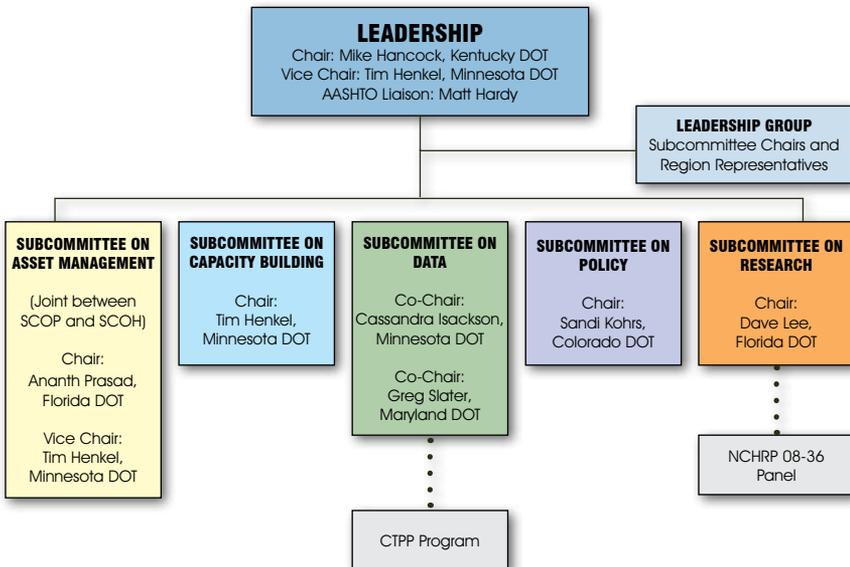
Implementation of the Strategic Plan

The implementation of the 2011 Strategic Plan is ultimately the responsibility of SCOP and its subcommittees, as described in the table below. AASHTO staff is working with SCOP's leadership team to develop more detailed timelines and milestones associated with each Action. As these milestones are articulated, SCOP leadership will begin to monitor and report on progress to the full SCOP membership on a regular basis. As milestones within the Strategic Plan are achieved and/or implementation issues surface, the Plan will be updated appropriately to reflect these achievements and ensure the continued relevance of SCOP's work.

Strategic Plan Action Item Responsibilities

Subcommittee	Action Items
Leadership	1.1, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 2.3, 2.8, 3.2, 4.1, 4.5, 4.7, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.7
Asset Management	4.8, 5.2, 5.7
Capacity	2.2, 2.4, 2.6, 2.10, 5.2, 5.7
Data	2.1, 2.5, 4.2, 5.2, 5.7
Policy	1.1, 1.2, 4.2, 4.4, 5.2, 5.7
Research	2.2, 2.4, 2.6, 2.10, 5.2, 5.7
AASHTO Staff	2.3, 2.5, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.3, 4.5, 5.2, 5.3, 5.6

SCOP Structure



Goal 1: Provide Leadership in Transportation Planning and Policy Issues

Strategies:

- Identify and analyze emerging transportation policy issues and its impact on AASHTO policies and decision-making.
- Facilitate research and actions to maintain the organizational capacity of planning agencies in the 21st Century.

Actions:

- 1.1 Appoint a subcommittee of SCOP to be available as a “SWOT Team” to comment as needed on draft Authorization bills.
- 1.2 Develop an NCHRP 8-36 Proposal for a policy-level white paper on “Scenario Planning and Its Importance.”
- 1.3 Develop a white paper or project on “Transportation Planning in the 21st Century.”
- 1.4 Consider adding U.S. DOT officials to SCOP as ex officio members.
- 1.5 Consider making ex officio FHWA member part of SCOP leadership team.
- 1.6 Proactively identify key issues for further prioritization, research, and action.
- 1.7 Partner with SCOPM to develop options and approaches for integrating performance measures into the planning process.
- 1.8 Ensure Strategic Plan implementation is monitored, reported, and updated regularly and appropriately.



Goal 2: Facilitate Research and Technical Support for Improving Transportation Planning

Strategies:

- Conduct research and analysis and provide technical assistance to states on transportation planning issues.
- Develop and advance best practices and new frameworks in multi-modal, integrated transportation planning.

Actions:

- 2.1 Use December 2011 TRB Data Conference to support identifying and prioritizing planning data gaps for further research.
- 2.2 Conduct a training/education session on Scenario Planning.
- 2.3 Include a joint SCOP/SCOE meeting agenda item regarding project selection criteria related to GHG and sustainability considerations.
- 2.4 Conduct a Peer Exchange on Scenario Planning and Tools for a Constrained Fiscal Environment.
- 2.5 Provide access to existing information on finance and revenue strategy options, including Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (SCOFA) products.
- 2.6 Conduct webinar on TRB Special Report 304, *Travel Data Needs*.
- 2.7 Conduct research project on implementing performance measures that address multi-disciplinary issues.
- 2.8 Consider institutionalizing and/or broadening *Commuting in America*.
- 2.9 Support AASHTO research on the valuation of the benefits of improvements to the transportation system.
- 2.10 Develop plan to synthesize and share key Performance-Based Planning and Programming (PBPP) data and their implications for DOTs.
- 2.11 Identify SHRP2 contact group to determine what products should reside with SCOP.





Goal 3: Facilitate Continuous and Effective Communication on Transportation Planning Issues Among Transportation Planning Practitioners

Strategies:

- Communicate with and inform AASHTO member states about transportation planning issues.
- Provide a forum for information exchange and problem solving.
- Serve as an information resource on planning for AASHTO.

Actions:

- 3.1 Disseminate information and case studies via www.statewideplanning.org.
- 3.2 Identify and provide a prioritized “Top 10” list of research topics and/or products to SCOP members on a regularly updated basis (e.g., annually).
- 3.3 Develop tools and resources to communicate the value and benefits of transportation investments to the public.
- 3.4 Develop a plan for ongoing communication with SCOP members to facilitate dissemination of information of value and relevance.

Goal 4: Coordinate Internally and Externally on Transportation Planning Policies, Practices and Issues

Strategies:

- Coordinate within AASHTO, federal regulatory agencies (e.g., FHWA, FTA, FRA, FAA) and other organizations (e.g., AMPO and NADO) to integrate planning policy, practice and principles into AASHTO and federal policies, guidance and standards.
- Lead AASHTO efforts regarding proposed legislation and regulations affecting transportation planning.

Actions:

- 4.1 Pursue partnerships within AASHTO and with other organizations to advance the state of the practice in transportation planning.

- 4.2 Partner with SCOFA to provide access for AASHTO members and DOTs to existing information on finance and revenue strategies and options.
- 4.3 Add a presentation from/about SCOFA to the SCOP agenda for the October 2011 meeting.
- 4.4 Meet with members of AMPO and related stakeholder organizations to explore/identify issues for pursuing jointly.
- 4.5 Schedule and plan a joint AASHTO/TRB Statewide Planning Committee meeting for summer 2012.
- 4.6 Conduct a joint session of SCOP, the Standing Committee on the Environment (SCOE) and the Standing Committee on Performance Management (SCOPM) to develop options for operationalizing Congressional mandates regarding PBPP.
- 4.7 Identify options and opportunities for integrating U. S. DOT more effectively into SCOP meetings.
- 4.8 Support and maintain the Subcommittee on Asset Management as a joint subcommittee with the Standing Committee on Highways (SCOH).

Goal 5: Enhance Service Provision to SCOP Members

Strategy:

- Sustain the vitality of SCOP and its service to both SCOP members and the broader AASHTO community.

Actions:

- 5.1 Provide an introduction to SCOP's mission, activities, and subcommittees for new members and other interested parties.
- 5.2 Add details on the SCOP subcommittees to the SCOP website.
- 5.3 Send a "Welcome to SCOP" letter to each new SCOP member when notified of his/her appointment.
- 5.4 Conduct calls to CEOs of state DOTs that are under-represented in SCOP as needed.
- 5.5 Determine whether to and/or how to establish a subcommittee on a "new members" category for SCOP.
- 5.6 Maintain and update the SCOP website, including subcommittee news, activities, and rosters, regularly and as needed.
- 5.7 Discuss the structure, mission, and make-up of the SCOP subcommittees and take appropriate actions to address identified issues and needs.



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Further information regarding SCOP and its subcommittees are available at:

Subcommittee on Planning

planning.transportation.org

Statewide Planning

www.statewideplanning.org

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