

Implementation Project Guidelines for SP&R Program

MnDOT's Implementation program is funded through the SP&R Part-II Research Program. Eligible proposal meeting the requirements are funded at 80/20 split with state research matching funds. Proposals may be funded at different federal/state funding split or entirely by state research funds based on recommendation from local FHWA in consultation with Research Services. Below lays out the eligibility requirement for the Implementation Program:

1. Address Problem or Need

The proposal needs to clearly state the transportation problem being solved or need that is being satisfied

2. Research Link

The Implementation proposal must include a reference link to a national, state or local research project that has been completed. If the reference link is not provided, this could reduce SP&R participation. Examples of research can be linked to any of the following federal, state or local programs:

- a. Federal Program
 - i. NCHRP project or other Federal Cooperative Research Programs
 - ii. Pooled Fund Project (MnDOT lead, MnDOT participation in pooled fund project/program, or single state project)
- b. State Research
 - i. MnDOT Research Project
 - ii. Other State DOT Research Project
 - iii. Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Inst. or MN Guidestar Program
 - iv. MnDOT's Maintenance New Technology Research and Equipment Committee (NTREC) program
 - v. MnDOT's Cold Weather Test Facility - (MnROAD)
- c. Local Research
 - i. Local Road Research Board (LRRB) research projects

3. Demonstrate Application for department

The proposal needs to indicate how the results of the implementation project will be used or applied within the department. If possible, state how the results could lead to full implementation in day-to-day practice and whether there is commitment to support implementation statewide

4. **Internal Champion** – implementation proposals must identify a MnDOT staff person as the champion to move forward for funding consideration.

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5. Other Considerations:

Equipment purchases

- a. Should be kept to a minimum and only include items necessary to support the implementation project.
- b. Can be used as seed money to demonstrate the viability of the equipment. Pilot project proposed should be limited to a specific area or location.
- c. Not intended as a funding source for full deployment of equipment through the state.
- d. Can't be used to supplement equipment budget.

Construction Project

- e. Extremely difficult to use research dollars to fund construction projects.
- f. Construction project has to be federally authorized, included in the STIP, and comply with Federal requirements.
- g. Only the cost differentials between a standard approach and innovative approach is eligible to be funded through the SP&R program.

There is unofficial FHWA guidance, but eligibility can be somewhat subjective and may be evaluated by the FHWA area engineer on a case-by-case basis.