

State planning and research (SPR) funds establish a comprehensive framework for making transportation investment decisions and carrying out transportation research activities throughout a State. The SPR-B program helps States develop innovative, research-driven solutions to increasingly complex transportation challenges. The basic principles governing this program are outlined in 23 U.S. Code (USC) Chapter 505 (b) and 23 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 420, which define how partners can use SPR-B funds for research, development, and technology transfer.

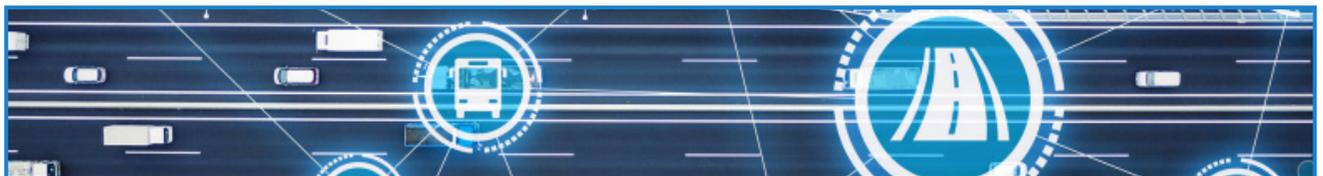
WHERE SHOULD I START?

A helpful place to start is the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Research Advisory Committee (RAC) 101 introduction. The introduction provides a great overview of the RAC community. Another helpful resource is the SPR-B program checklist, which outlines all the high-level action items that need to be overseen and the respective actions and timeline for both the State department of transportation (DOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Division office. A 4-hour online National Highway Institute

(NHI) [Research 101 course](#) is also available and provides an overview of the administration of the SPR-B program.

WHERE CAN I GET ANSWERS TO MY QUESTIONS?

Each State's local FHWA division research coordinator is a great resource for SPR-related questions. FHWA's Office of Corporate Research, Technology and Innovation Management also helps to support the program, but final determinations remain with the FHWA division office.



What SPR-B program resources should I be aware of?

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OVERVIEW

SPR-B RESOURCES

[FHWA's Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty \(HEP\) research program frequently asked questions \(FAQs\):](#)

These FAQs provide basic information on the focus of the HEP research program, share research coordinator contact information, and describe how HEP research is coordinated with other transportation research.

[FHWA Division Review of State Department of Transportation Research Management Process:](#)

This overview document was created based on feedback from research coordinators looking for additional guidance during the management process review.

[NHI Research 101 course:](#)

A 4-hour online course that provides an overview of the SPR-B program.

[SPR-B program action checklist:](#)

The [SPR-B program action checklist](#) provides an overview of required and suggested actions of the SPR-B program, per 23 CFR 420.



SPR-B GUIDANCE

State Planning and Research Funds Overhead/Indirect Cost Rate Guidance:

This FHWA memorandum, issued in July 2017, provides guidance to State DOTs on how the overhead/indirect cost rate should be calculated by universities when conducting research for DOTs using FHWA SPR funds.

FHWA, State DOT, and MPO Rights to Copyrighted and Patented Items Developed with FHWA Planning and Research Funds:

This guidance provides information on copyrighted publications and patented inventions or discoveries resulting from activities performed with FHWA planning and research funds.

State Planning and Research Program Research, Development, and Technology Transfer Program Management Guidance for Implementing 23 CFR Part 420, Subpart B:

This guidance, published in October 2018, is intended to assist FHWA and State DOT staff in implementing the 23 CFR Part 420, Subpart B Research, Development, and Technology Transfer Program Management regulations.

State Planning and Research Guide for Peer Exchanges:

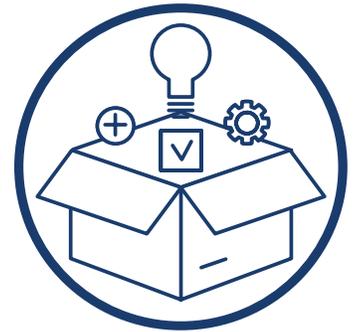
This document, published in June 2010, provides guidance for SPR peer reviews. It contains information about the philosophy and principle of peer exchanges, the use of peer exchanges to strategically improve research programs, and guidance and resources on conducting peer exchanges.

Guidance on the Use of FHWA State Planning and Research Funds for Reimbursement of Education and Tuition Expenses:

This guidance, published in April 2015, provides frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers on the use of FHWA SPR funds for reimbursement of education and tuition expenses.

Legislation, Regulations, and Guidance—Guidance on Use of Training FHWA Planning and Research Funds for Travel and Training:

This FHWA guidance, first published in January 2004 and subsequently updated in April 2017, clarifies the eligibility of FHWA SPR and metropolitan planning funds for travel and training.



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Legislation, Regulations, and Guidance—Use of FHWA Planning and Research Funds for Conferences and Other Meetings:

This guidance, first published in December 2006 and subsequently updated in December 2014, clarifies the use of FHWA planning and research funds for conferences and other meetings.

REGULATIONS AND POLICY

FHWA Order 6030.1A—Peer Exchange Policy for State Planning and Research:

This FHWA order, issued on July 14, 2010, provides questions and answers on FHWA's peer exchange policy. This order references the SPR guide for peer exchanges noted in the previous bullet point.

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