

Construction and Maintenance of the Transportation System Expert Task Group (CM)

Member Name	Division/Branch	Title
Jon Lazarus	PDAD – Research	Research Coordinator
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Dr. John Gambatese	OSU	Professor
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Vidal Francis	Region 2, District 5	Area 5 Manager
John Gambatese*	Oregon State University	Civil & Construction Engineering Professor

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Research Priorities

This ETG reviews any research problem statements related to construction and maintenance activities statewide. Primarily ideas for this group come from day-to-day operations from districts, regions, or hired contractors that support ODOT’s goals and mission statement. Particular focus will be on improving safety, operational improvement, reducing delays, and efficiencies in production/delivery for both construction and maintenance activities.

The following bullet points are areas of potential research this Expert Task Group (ETG) will pursue and examine for funding:

Construction Topics

- Effective and safe roadway construction setup and break-down, particularly during operations (not during planning stages).
- Best practices in operational and/or logistical aspects of construction/highway preservation jobs, including project management.

- Effective work zone practices, particularly in routine operations.
- Effective and efficient methods to reduce operational delays and bottlenecks when working on or improving the transportation system.
- Materials improvement will not be considered with this ETG, rather with the Pavements and Materials (PM) ETG.

Maintenance Topics

- Efficient and effective maintenance practices, including evaluating new processes, equipment or safety changes for crews.
- Focus on improving seasonal operations, including vegetation control, winter operations, inspection for maintenance activities, and other associated tasks.

A few questions have been developed to assist with evaluating statements for this ETG:

1. Does the research idea address a problem, or need, that the ETG considers pertinent to ODOT's mission and goals?
2. How urgent is the research needed?
 - a. Will the research be completed quickly enough to affect the targeted issue or problem?
3. What is the value of the potential benefits (economic, ecosystem, cultural, safety, staff time, etc.) compared to the expected cost of the associated research?
4. How much of the department's resources are affected by the issue? Is this a special case/circumstance or does the problem have a wide-ranging (agency-wide) affect?
5. Is it likely that the research will produce a realistic and implementable result for ODOT?
 - a. Or are there significant barriers to implementing outcomes that are external (e.g. political concerns, public acceptance, requires ORS changes, etc.)?
6. Is there a project champion likely to use the results, either for change or to enforce current practice?
7. How likely are the results to change ODOT's business practice, or for new business practices, how likely is it that the results will facilitate the way ODOT does something?
8. Does the research idea fit best in the scope of the CM ETG, or is it more appropriate for another ETG to assess the merits of the idea?