

**THE RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS  
STEERING COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN**

**2017-2019**

**Adopted May 24, 2017**

## Introduction

Note: This plan is written from the perspective of AASHTO's Resilient and Sustainable Transportation Systems (RSTS) Steering Committee in examining its work to date and anticipating the identification of additional strategies and actions in which RSTS members can work with members of AASHTO's Special Committee on Transportation Security and Emergency Management (SCOTSEM) through the formation of AASHTO's new Committee on Transportation Systems Security and Resilience, under which they will both operate.

The Executive Committee of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) adopted a restructuring plan for AASHTO's committees in 2016 that was developed in response to AASHTO's new Strategic Plan. AASHTO's Strategic Plan (2014-2019 timeframe) included the following four goals:

- *Provide Value to Members:* AASHTO provides the highest possible value to its members who provide the backbone of AASHTO's policy development, advocacy and strong technical services.
- *Provide Innovative Technical and Professional Services and Products:* AASHTO provides state of the art technical services and products that are widely used by members and the larger domestic and international transportation community.
- *Be a Leader in National Transportation Policy Development:* AASHTO advances the interests of members by playing a leadership role in transportation policy development.
- *Communicate the Value of Transportation:* AASHTO communicates the value of transportation at the national level, working with members to develop the tools to communicate state and local transportation needs and priorities.

In response to the emerging restructuring, the **Resilient and Sustainable Transportation Systems Steering Committee** (RSTS) adopted three strategic management guidance documents presented in the following pages: 1) Committee Purpose and Membership, 2) Committee Charter and 3) Committee Work Plan for the Current AASHTO Strategic Plan. These documents were developed through an interactive and collaborative process among Committee members by examining background material on future planning challenges facing State Departments of Transportation (DOTs).

It is intended that these documents will be updated as the AASHTO Strategic Plan evolves to meet the needs of State DOTs in future years.

## Resilient and Sustainable Transportation Systems Steering Committee Purpose and Membership

Resilient and sustainable transportation systems are an essential role of DOTs in supporting their States' quality of life and economic vitality. The RSTS Steering Committee strategically coordinates national efforts, identifies best practices, and works to fill research gaps to promote resilient transportation systems across the country. This includes preparing for, and responding and adapting infrastructure for extreme weather events, and other shocks and stresses to the transportation system. The Steering Committee is dedicated to influencing emerging policies, guiding and developing technical expertise and tools for state DOTs to perform risk based identification of potential impacts, planning for system adaptation needs, and preparing for the response and recovery of impacted transportation systems.

The Steering Committee shall:

1. Assess and recommend national-level policies (laws, regulations and guidance) that affect the ability of state DOTs to better plan for and execute transportation system resiliency within their agencies. Support the Board of Directors in influencing the development of federal policy, programs, regulations, and guidance on resiliency.
2. Support and encourage State DOT efforts and national policies toward sustainable transportation system practices and investments that strengthen the economy, preserve the environment and enhance communities.
3. Research, document and disseminate information about national and international trends, innovation, industry practices and advances in the field of transportation resilience and sustainability.
4. Connect State DOTs to resources, including models, tools, analysis techniques, methodologies and professional development to implement a multimodal, multidisciplinary approach to transportation system resilience and sustainability.
5. Champion and advocate the principles and applications of weather related resiliency within AASHTO forums, councils and committees; and with other partner organizations.

Membership of the RSTS Steering Committee consists of practitioners from the four AASHTO regions and a cross-section of AASHTO committees, focusing on issues related to building a resilient transportation system.

## Steering Committee Charter

The Resilient and Sustainable Transportation Systems Steering Committee is organized by the following:

1. A Committee Chair and Vice Chair will be appointed by the President of the Association's Board of Directors.
2. The Steering Committee currently does not consist of subcommittees, however, in its future merger with the Special Committee on Transportation Security and Emergency Management, the new Committee on Transportation Systems Security and Resilience may consider forming subcommittees focused on specific aspects of resilience. For example, a Subcommittee on Climate and Extreme Weather could be responsible for the identification of climate- and extreme weather-related vulnerabilities and providing the necessary research, tools, policy and technical support to DOTs to adapt, improve preparedness, and plan systems resilient to impacts from climate- and extreme weather-related events.
3. The Committee will interact with the AASHTO Forum, Councils and Committees, and other organizations, as appropriate, to foster cross-disciplinary transportation system security and resilience approaches to transportation research, professional development, policy development and technical support for decision making.
4. The Chair will report annually to the Committee and to the Association Strategic Management Committee on Committee activities for the prior year.

## Resilient and Sustainable Transportation Systems Steering Committee Work Plan (2017-2019)

The RSTS Steering Committee Work Plan described in the following pages presents background information on the current status of Steering Committee activities and of historical Steering Committee roles, aligned to support the broader AASHTO strategies and goals.

<b>AASHTO Strategic Goal</b>	<b>Applicable AASHTO Strategy</b>	<b>RSTS Steering Committee Actions (Proposed)</b>
1. Provide Value to Members	1.3. Promote awareness of AASHTO resources, including its technical services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote RSTS Technical Assistance Program mission and service offerings</li> </ul>
	1.4. Develop and cultivate future leaders and core competencies within member Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide/support leadership in climate/extreme weather resiliency and technical training</li> <li>• Identify core competency needs and how RSTS technical assistance program can help address gaps</li> </ul>
	1.5. Ensure alignment of organizational activities to the strategic plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review RSTS steering committee structure and expectations</li> <li>• Develop RSTS research agenda and activities to ensure support for innovation and implementation of innovative strategies</li> </ul>
2. Provide Innovative Technical and Professional Services and Products	2.1. Make technical service and product areas financially self-supporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue subscription-based service to RSTS Technical Assistance Program and establish mechanisms to ensure membership satisfaction with products (e.g., bi-monthly newsletter featuring lead articles and case studies on DOT resiliency lessons learned, webinars, etc.) and services (e.g., breaking news alerts, etc.)</li> </ul>
	2.2. Identify improvements to technical service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue and expand upon current methods of information exchange and sharing on topics of interest to DOTs, MPOs, transit and other transportation providers</li> <li>• Explore platforms and innovative approaches for technical services and service issues (e.g., for the bi-monthly newsletter and extreme weather presentations, present practitioner-based information by discipline or extreme weather type, etc.)</li> </ul>
	2.3. Identify and support high priority research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify research gaps in climate adaptation and resiliency</li> <li>• Work with AASHTO committees and partners to develop and implement effective research efforts addressing national priorities related to climate adaptation and extreme weather resiliency</li> </ul>
3. Be a Leader in National Transportation	3.1. Monitor and share national and state policy and legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regularly monitor climate change / extreme weather policy and legislative activities and inform membership of opportunities and threats (e.g., via breaking news alerts, etc.)</li> </ul>

Policy Development	3.3. Enhance AASHTO's policy effectiveness through collaborative partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Develop a plan for enhancing beneficial partnerships</li> <li>•Develop tool kit for the engagement of partners (including private sector partners)</li> <li>•Convene meetings/summits around key transportation issues related to climate/extreme weather adaptation, preparedness, and resiliency to collaboratively set priorities</li> </ul>
4. Communicate the Value of Transportation	4.1. Provide members with the tools to tell the transportation story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Identify audiences and opportunity areas for telling the transportation story</li> <li>•Partner with members and other organizations in communication the value of transportation and its role in extreme weather events, emergency response, etc.</li> </ul>
	4.2. Facilitate broad understanding of the link between transportation investment and economic prosperity, quality of life, and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Develop strong transportation narratives and tools that have broad impact on the transportation dialogue</li> </ul>