Document Summary

STATEWIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTEGRATING OPERATIONS, SAFETY, AND MULTIMODAL PLANNING
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Summary of the Work

This reference manual discusses the value that comes from integrating operations, safety, and multimodal transportation planning at the state DOT level by identifying opportunities to strengthen coordination and integrate efforts within these functional areas. The document also relates how integration at this level can provide system-wide benefits and enable more effective decision-making. It serves as a “how-to” reference to help practitioners identify ways to take advantage of these opportunities in five major areas:

1. Overarching considerations that can support agency-wide change led at the executive level
2. Statewide level opportunities such as developing statewide operations goals and objectives
3. Regional level opportunities, including supporting data-sharing and analysis tools between State DOTs and MPOs
4. Corridor and sub-area level opportunities, including utilizing operations data in corridor studies
5. Project level opportunities like incorporating operations-related traffic management and TDM strategies into project construction

Specific actions or opportunities for transportation professionals to begin working toward integrating planning, operations, and safety are described for these various levels of decision-making – statewide, regional, corridor, and project level. The specific actions are provided in “opportunity fact sheets,” which describe the individual opportunities along with associated challenges, benefits, and persons involved, as well as recommended steps to begin implementation.

The document is most useful to managers in state DOTs because of its comprehensive overview of business processes related to planning and performance measurement. The state of the practice for integrating operations into planning is discussed in detail and highlighted using case study information.

Strategies and treatments related to work zone management, integrated corridor management, traffic incident management and emergency management, and transportation operations are discussed throughout the document within relevant opportunities.

Section 2 “Creating an Environment for Integrating Operations, Safety, and Multimodal Planning” provides opportunities that may be considered at the policy or strategic level. This section is targeted more toward the decision-maker and provides practitioners information that can be used to raise awareness by focusing on institutional issues related to leadership and collaboration.

Case study examples highlight opportunities for successfully overcoming barriers and challenges in particular areas. In some cases, the document draws on these case studies to develop “toolkits,” which provide useful takeaway information that may be a helpful starting point for practitioners in implementing an associated opportunity.
Applied to Practice

The reference manual excels in demonstrating ways that agencies can advance operations through alternative means—including cooperative efforts with safety, planning, and transit organizations. The information is contained as a high-level overview, presented in an easy-to-read format, and is largely intended for a management-level audience. The opportunity areas cover a range of implementation levels, such that individuals involved in statewide level activities and local project development could benefit.

Related Work

The document builds on the previous FHWA document, “Statewide Opportunities for Linking Planning and Operations: A Primer (Synthesis Input Document Review List Number 36).”

Many case studies are included throughout the document, each of which includes references for more information.

Project Website