

Project Capsule

25-5PF



April 2025

Ahead of the Curve: Course Updates and Conversions

PROBLEM

In 2010-2011, the Transportation Research Board (TRB) empaneled a task force to develop and deliver a coordinated and continuing training program that enhances the knowledge, skills, and abilities of individuals involved in managing transportation research and innovation programs. This training program, entitled “Ahead of the Curve: Mastering the Art of Transportation Research Management (AOTC),” provides development opportunities for research managers and others engaged in a wide variety of research-oriented tasks. State Department of Transportation personnel involved with different aspects of the cooperative research program are a major focus of this training program, while individuals from universities, consulting firms, and other agencies and groups represent additional audiences.

The training program is structured to include one introductory course, four core courses, and twelve elective courses. It is critical that this training material is updated to reflect changes and progress in the research community over the past decade. It is also important to advance the course deliverables to a platform that will allow training materials to be delivered on demand and with enough frequency to build the community of practice necessary for continued success. This project will transfer AOTC information from NCHRP to AASHTO, update and transfer existing information into the AASHTO Technical Training Solutions (TTS) format, and make all courses 508 compliant.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this project is to update and transfer existing information into the AASHTO TTS format and make all courses 508 compliant. As part of the updates, it has been determined that it is necessary to develop an additional elective course on 508 compliance and accessibility.

METHODOLOGY

A hallmark of our team’s approach to this scope is the timely production of course guidance materials and updated slides that are useful to research audiences with limited prior knowledge of the training program.

Start Date

March 24, 2025

Duration

18 months

Funding

Pooled Fund: TT-Fed

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The work plan will consist of nine tasks:

- **Task 1:** Develop storyboards for updated core classes (4)
- **Task 2:** Convert and format core courses for TTS
- **Task 3:** Pilot delivery of core courses with designated pooled fund panelists
- **Task 4:** Respond and revise as needed
- **Task 5:** Develop storyboards for updated elective courses (12) and introductory course
- **Task 6:** Convert and format elective and introductory courses
- **Task 7:** Develop storyboard for new course on 508 compliance
- **Task 8:** Develop TTS course materials on 508 compliance
- **Task 9:** Author closeout technical memorandum

IMPLEMENTATION POTENTIAL

This project will result in courses being offered through the AASHTO TTS program. As a national resource, AASHTO TTS helps states, local governments, and industry leaders save money at a critical time of infrastructure investment through course development, web-based training, information, and resource sharing available at a substantially reduced cost. The expectation is that by using this platform, the AOTC training will be available to a broad audience of professionals in the transportation research disciplines.