FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

Guiding Principles and Agency Commitments from the Corporate Master Plan

As a major corporate initiative to "raise-the-bar" on technology and innovation delivery, FHWA leadership endorsed and published the *Corporate Master Plan for Research and Deployment of Technology & Innovation* (CMP) in April 2003. The CMP lays out guiding principles and Agency commitments of actions that will strengthen FHWA's role as "Innovators for a Better Future." The Guiding Principles and Agency Commitments are summarized below, and full CMP details can be found on the FHWA Web site at **http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legsregs/directives/policy/cmp/03077.htm**.

Guiding Principles and Agency Commitments

Guiding Principle #1

The FHWA Research and Technology (R&T) process, from research through implementation, is systematic and begins with the end in mind.

The Agency commits to:

- An R&T Process that clearly identifies the end user and intended impact.
- An R&T Process that is predictable, repeatable, and well documented.
- An R&T Process that is proactive, visible, and accessible to all stakeholders.
- Establishing an internal R&T Network for coordination and sharing R&T information within the Agency and with FHWA's stakeholders.
- Efficiency improvements of FHWA staffing and funding resources for effectively deploying technology and innovation.

Guiding Principle #2

FHWA engages in advanced and applied research and innovation deployment activities where there is an appropriate Federal role.

The Agency commits to:

- Focusing on long-term, high-cost, high-risk research with high payoff potential; significant highway research gaps not addressed in other highway R&T programs; and emerging issues with national implications.
- Working with stakeholders to increase the FHWA advanced research effort.
- Developing an advanced research plan with consolidated goals addressing FHWA needs.

Guiding Principle #3

Stakeholders are engaged throughout the R&T process.

The Agency commits to:

- Expanding the disciplines and diversity of stakeholders engaged in the R&T process.
- Engaging stakeholders on FHWA R&T policy decisions.
- Engaging stakeholders on FHWA R&T agenda setting and R&T multiyear plan development.
- Including stakeholders for merit review during various phases of the R&T process.
- Incorporating stakeholders on research project, program, and agency level evaluations and reviews.
- Involving stakeholders in deployment and implementation of technologies or innovations.

Guiding Principle #4

The R&T process is grounded in the FHWA mission and goals and guided by multiyear plans.

The Agency commits to:

- Developing multiyear plans that support FHWA goals and that guide and direct the FHWA R&T Program.
- Establishing a priority list of market-ready technologies or innovations.

Guiding Principle #5

The R&T budget allocation is based on and driven by multiyear plans and priorities.

The Agency commits to:

- Ensuring that national needs and Agency goals and priorities are met.
- Providing adequate resources for advanced research and unsolicited proposals.
- Providing adequate resources for deployment and implementation.
- Providing adequate resources for stakeholder involvement.

Guiding Principle #6

The FHWA measures performance of R&T at the agency, program, and project levels.

The Agency commits to:

- Developing, defining, and adopting a framework for measuring performance.
- Using merit review for conducting research evaluations and measuring performance.

Guiding Principle #7

The FHWA effectively communicates its R&T program and projects.

The Agency commits to:

- Developing a uniform, overall FHWA R&T Program message.
- Working with FHWA stakeholders to ensure the R&T Program and projects are communicated consistently and with the appropriate level of detail required by each stakeholder.
- Publishing an agencywide R&T performance report.
- Including communication, marketing, training, and education in the implementation plans.

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

October 2003
FHWA-RD-03-095
HRTS-03/12-03(1M)E