

Update Since Last Year's Partners Meeting

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MDOT Investigator Partners Meeting

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Thank you...

- ...for being part of the process as MDOT has changed its research program
- Investigators have asked the questions and provided the feedback that helped shape changes in the program



You provided key input a year ago

□ University Partners Meeting — February 2008

- Investigators, administrators and contract staff responded to ORBP's working draft of MDOT's new Research and Implementation Manual and helped shape changes
- A look back to that meeting...



MDOT addressed why it was changing research management

□ Five “change drivers” to a new approach:

1. State of Michigan
 - Research can help achieve the goals of the high-level, long-term vision in the *MI Transportation Plan*
2. MDOT leaders
 - Research can look beyond traditional categories to all modes and departments
 - Research can address MDOT's most critical needs
3. Michigan's economy
 - Research and its impact on the transportation system can help advance industry, commerce, tourism, and employment



MDOT addressed why it was changing research management (continued)

❑ Five “change drivers” (continued)

4. Other DOTs

- Research can be improved by considering best practices across the country

5. Federal funding

- The conduct of research must conform to the Code of Federal Regulations
- MDOT’s research program can be expanded with more projects that meet federal requirements for 80/20 matching



These drivers continue to shape and guide MDOT’s direction

❑ All changes to the research program have been carefully considered with these questions in mind:

- Will research meet MDOT needs?
- Can the results be implemented?
- Will the research benefit the state of Michigan, its taxpayers and the traveling public?



You have been a part of the process following last year's University Partners Meeting as well

- ❑ Research Summit — October 2008
 - All participants brainstormed the agency's most critical needs. MDOT staff and executives developed these ideas into problem statements for the FY 2010 research biennium
- ❑ Public call for research problem statements — January 2009
 - ORBP invited Michigan investigators to submit problem statements for consideration by MDOT for funding
- ❑ Your help is important to MDOT's continued progress



What else has happened since our University Partners meeting last February

- ❑ ORBP launched its public Web site in August 2008
 - A hub for all research activities at MDOT

<http://www.michigan.gov/mdotresearch>



Since the University Partners Meeting (continued)

- ❑ ORBP published its Research and Implementation Manual, dated September 2008
 - The manual is available on ORBP's Web page
 - More information on planned changes to the manual will be addressed later today
- ❑ ORBP held workshops to orient MDOT staff new to the research process
 - This will facilitate management of research in the new biennium



Since the University Partners Meeting (continued)

- ❑ Changes at ORBP
 - Michael Townley recently joined ORBP as the new University Research Administrator
 - Angela Nelson moved into the role of analyst for ORBP
 - Trudy Schutte joined ORBP as executive secretary for the office
 - Annette Nealey joined ORBP as secretary for the research program
 - We have a new office e-mail to answer general inquiries: mdot-research@michigan.gov



