

Sustainable Urban Transportation Planning

Also granted approval by the Urban Transportation Council was the production of a briefing document offering recommendations and strategies to help Canadian municipalities prepare master plans for sustainable urban transportation.

Proposed by the Sustainable Transportation Standing Committee (STSC), the briefing may serve as a checklist for municipalities when deciding which elements to include in their long-range transportation planning process and how they can most effectively

contribute to more sustainable transportation. The project will build on work recently conducted by **Transport Canada**. This includes a literature search on existing practices and stakeholder consultation through regional workshops.

A volunteer group of STSC members has begun development of the briefing. Numerous TAC committees and councils, as well as other organizations with an interest in sustainable transportation, will be asked to review the document and provide feedback to the authors before its expected completion this fall.

U.S. Launches SHRP II

SHRP II – created by the U.S. Congress as a follow-up to the successful Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP) conducted from 1988 to 1993 – was launched in March.

SHRP II is a targeted, short-term, results-oriented research program designed to advance highway performance and safety, with a focus on accelerating innovation in highway renewal, safety, reliability, as well as planning and design.

The program will undoubtedly present new opportunities for Canada/U.S. collaboration in important research areas. As a first step, Manitoba's deputy minister of transportation and government services, Andy Horosko, has been appointed by the U.S. Transportation Research Board (TRB) to the SHRP II Oversight Committee.

SHRP II research is planned in four areas with a view to:

- ◆ preventing or reducing the severity of highway crashes by understanding driver behavior (safety);
- ◆ addressing aging infrastructure through rapid design and construction methods that cause minimal disruption and produce long-lived facilities (renewal);
- ◆ reducing congestion through incident reduction, management, response and mitigation (reliability); and
- ◆ integrating mobility, economic, environmental and community needs in the planning and design of new transportation capacity (capacity).

SHRP II is authorized in the *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)* with \$205 million in funding over a four-year period. Work is expected to begin this summer and all research to be completed by 2011.

The previously mentioned oversight committee is responsible for all aspects of SHRP II research activities. Technical advisory committees have been established for each of the four research areas.

The program is managed by TRB in close cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

In the late 1980s, Canada developed a close partnership with the U.S. during the original Strategic Highway Research Program by launching the companion C-SHRP initiative. The cooperative Canadian effort led to landmark collaboration that included both joint and complementary research efforts, open exchange of data and findings and technology transfer.

While both SHRP and C-SHRP are concluded, their legacy continues with an ongoing long-term pavement performance effort launched in 1988.

Further information on SHRP II can be found at www.trb.org/shrpII.

2006 TAC Foundation Scholarships Top \$100 000!

The TAC Foundation scholarship awards for the 2006-07 academic year will total at least \$100 000.

Special thanks are extended to **iTRANS Consulting Ltd.**, which has just come on board as a platinum donor with an annual scholarship of \$10 000 for the next five years.

Other new donors are the **Cement Association of Canada**, **Golder Associates Ltd.** and **Thurber Engineering Ltd.** – all at the silver level. Meanwhile, discussions are continuing with several other potential private-sector donors.

To help a future transportation professional, contact Brian Henderson, executive director of the Foundation (brianhenderson@rogers.com; tel. [416] 225-6744).