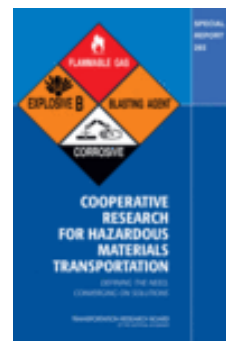


## Hazardous Materials Cooperative Research Program

On August 23, 2006, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) awarded a contract to the National Academies to initiate a pilot of a Hazardous Materials Cooperative Research Program (HMCRP). The Transportation Research Board (TRB), part of the National Academies, will be responsible for managing the pilot program. The HMCRP is intended to be a stakeholder-driven, problem-solving, practical oriented, near- to mid-term research and development program advancing current knowledge and practice relating to hazardous materials transportation.

The pilot follows a concept study of a hazardous materials cooperative research program by the TRB, which was completed in March 2005. PHMSA, along with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the Federal Railroad Administration, and the U.S. Coast Guard, sponsored the concept study. It concluded there is a demonstrable need for such a program, with a strong security component, for hazardous materials transportation. [TRB Special Report 283](#), “Cooperative Research for Hazardous Materials Transportation – Defining the Need, Converging on Solutions,” documents study results.



The “Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users” or “SAFETEA-LU” required PHMSA to enter into a contract with the National Academies to carry out research projects called for in Special Report 283 (see Annex 4-1 on page 71 for details). Funding from the Highway Trust Fund for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2009 is authorized to carry out these projects. Funding was \$882,528 for FY2006, \$968,147 for FY2007 and \$977,306 for FY2008. Similar amount is expected to be provided for FY2009 subject to Congressional appropriations. In a letter report to Congress dated June 9, 2006, Secretary Mineta described plans to conduct hazardous materials transportation research as authorized in SAFETEA-LU while testing the concept of a cooperative hazardous materials transportation research program.

Procedures similar to those employed in the existing National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP), Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP), and Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) were used by TRB to provide for competitive, merit-based selection of research institutions, research project oversight, and dissemination of research results.

On November 1, TRB appointed the [HMCRP Oversight Panel](#), composed of a representative group of experts in hazardous materials transportation. The Oversight Panel met on November 30, 2006 and November 27, 2007 to select a total of six [projects](#) for implementation.

Technical panels were appointed by TRB to provide technical guidance and counsel through the life of specific research projects. Technical panels include experienced

practitioners and research specialists, with a mix of individuals with the relevant technical expertise from the freight transportation industry, government agencies, the private sector, and academia.

The milestones for the pilot program are shown in the following table. Note that this is a multi-year effort which will continue past FY2009 due to the time required to complete the projects although the funding based on authorization from SAFETY-LU will end with the FY2009.

### HMCRP Milestones

Appoint Oversight Panel	November 1, 2006
Meeting of Oversight Panel to Select and Prioritize Initial Projects	November 30, 2006
Meeting of Oversight Panel to Select additional projects	November 27, 2007
Meeting of Oversight Panel to Select projects for FY2009	November 2008 (projected)
Project HM-02 Hazardous Materials Transportation Incident Data for Root Cause Analysis	February 2009 (projected)
Project HM-01 Hazardous Materials Commodity Flow Data and Analysis	May 2009 (projected)
Projects HM-02, HM-03, HM-04	November 2009 (projected)

There are many ways for stakeholders to participate in the pilot of the HMCRP. These include providing suggestions and feedback on the program and projects, serving on HMCRP panels, conducting HMCRP projects, and applying findings and recommendations from HMCRP research. Those interested are encouraged to check this website periodically for the status and further information on the [TRB website](#).

The primary point of contact at the TRB for the HMCRP:

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