

**\*DRAFT\***  
**National Transportation Knowledge Network**  
**Strategic Implementation Goals and Objectives**  
**DRAFT – 8 November 2010; updated 16 November**

**What We Are**

The National Transportation Knowledge Network (NTKN) is an association of transportation organizations collaborating to improve information access, exchange, use, and preservation for their employees, partners, and stakeholders and the broader transportation community.

*Transportation organizations include federal, state, academic, non-profit, and for-profit agencies and are organized into regional or topical transportation knowledge networks (TKNs). The word “information” includes textual, business/operational, bibliographic, images, multimedia, and datasets.*



**What We Do**

**Mission**

The NTKN supports and sustains a network of transportation information providers collaborating to improve information access, exchange, use, and preservation so that they can provide transportation professionals with timely and convenient access to relevant information that enables faster progress toward meeting critical transportation challenges.

**Goals**

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1. Improve information access for transportation professionals
2. Increase collaboration among transportation information producers and providers
3. Preserve transportation information resources
4. Build capacity within transportation information professionals

**Function**

The NTKN achieves its goals through the following:

- (a) coordination and support of regional and topical TKNs;
- (b) identification and analysis of information needs of transportation professionals;
- (c) identification and response to cross-cutting issues;
- (d) development or support of development of innovative information resources and tools;
- (e) education about and marketing of the TKN effort to the transportation community;
- (f) communication and promulgation of NTKN activities throughout the organization and beyond;
- (g) study and analysis of best practices in methods of collecting, storing, organizing and disseminating transportation information;
- (h) assessment and evaluation of TKN efforts; and
- (i) collaboration with national, international, and interdisciplinary bodies with interests in common with those of the NTKN and in support of all of the above.

**Value Proposition**

**Benefits**

The benefits of a successful, active NTKN are tangible and critical in an environment of shrinking budgets. Effective information management, the access, exchange, use, and preservation of information, at a coordinated national level has benefits for

*transportation organizations by*

- increasing productivity of knowledge workers by reducing time spent searching, accessing, and compiling high quality information;
- cost savings due to reduced time and purchasing of institutional, local, regional, and national data for decision-making;
- maximizing investments in research development and implementation by avoiding redundant research and facilitating technology transfer; and
- preserving institutional knowledge.

*the transportation system by*

- improving performance;
- reducing the amount of lost knowledge;
- establishing and promulgating common information standards and tools;
- fostering collaboration; and
- accelerating innovation by reaching across silos.

**Who We Are**  
**Membership**

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This model of consortium membership assumes organizations are members (with primary and alternate representatives at meetings), but any employee may participate on projects of the TKNs. The focus is on enabling all who are interested in an organization to participate in information resource sharing and access projects and initiatives. It should also encourage organizations to join regional or topical TKNs to have the most influence in NTKN activities. Key Partner organizations will provide the perspective of their stakeholder community in NTKN efforts.

- A. Coordinating Organization: The National Transportation Library of the US Department of Transportation's Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA)
- B. Membership Types: There are four (4) membership types in the NTKN
  - a. Regional TKN-affiliated members;
  - b. Topical TKN-affiliated members;
  - c. NTKN Key Partner organizations;
  - d. Non-TKN affiliated organizations with an interest in transportation information management not part of (c); and
  - e. Persons whose work within NTKN's field of interest merits special recognition.

### **Partners**

NTKN seeks and works with a number of partners in pursuit of its strategic goals. Partners exist in the library and information science, data, knowledge management, records management, and broader transportation communities.

*Key Partners* include the following:

- Special Libraries Association Transportation Division
- Transportation Research Board Library and Information Science for Transportation Committee
- Transportation Library Connectivity Pooled Fund Study
- AASHTO RAC TKN Task Force
- Council of University Transportation Centers
- Transportation Research Board Data Section
- Transportation Research Board Data Section Metadata Subcommittee
- Transportation Research Board Visualization Committee
- TRB History Committee
- TRB Special Committee on Knowledge Management

[insert comment on role of other broader partners or comment about the current key partners being those actively involved in NTKN development?]

### **What to Expect Next**

The next steps for the NTKN are to continue activities toward formal establishment, including a communications toolkit, initial success stories, and long-term planning. Specifics include tasks related to the following:

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Communication

- Secure and develop a web home for the NTKN
- Create and disseminate educational and information products on the NTKN
- Continue outreach efforts to groups identified at the national level and through regional TKNs and key partners

Creation

- Identify strategic activities and projects (i.e., the “low-hanging fruit”) to show the value of NTKNs
- Identify mid- and long-term goals for the NTKN
- Develop and refine operational documents for an NTKN (e.g., by-laws, principles, etc.)
- Different membership levels afford different weights in voting and participation in NTKN-wide activities.

Costs

- Develop tiered cost models for implementing the NTKN at a low-cost, mid-cost, and fully-funded levels

Items in the “What to Expect Next” section are the focus of the January 2011 strategic planning session at TRB. Timelines, specific targets, and outcomes will be defined for each element.