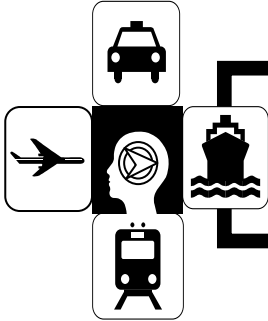


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Tech Brief

Development & Implementation of the Division of Research and Technology Web

FHWA-NJ-2002-024

October 2002

Ta Da!

Introducing the brand new web site for the Division of Research and Technology of the New Jersey Department of Transportation. This state of the art website identifies research partners, contains a directory of the organization and email addresses, lists current projects, contains completed research reports, has a listing of related links, and also includes guidelines and formats for proposals, invoices, and final reports.



THE OBJECTIVES ...



- To allow various research information to be easily accessed through a website.
- To provide contact information for those interested in obtaining or participating in research.
- To create a database of prior NJDOT research reports.

SCOPE OF THIS PROJECT...This project entails the creation of a web page that serves as a conduit for the New Jersey Department of Transportation to disseminate technology transfer by distributing both current, and previous, research. In addition, such a site would provide a forum in which interested parties are able to view completed research reports from the NJDOT in electronic form.

Another component of this project included web page education of the NJDOT Research Division personnel. This permitted Research Division employees the ability to modify the graphics, or other essential components to the presentation of the website. Since the final placement of the website is to be located at the New Jersey Department of Transportation, it was important that their own staff be able to update and modify the sections of the website themselves, thus ensuring timely updates and information for research professionals and others utilizing the website resources.

The web page evolved in three stages. Initially, the design of the web page was carried out. This was dependent on establishing the audience and specific content of the future web page. Gathering of information and static web page design occurred. It was decided that there would be seven subtasks: web page management, directory structure, theme, toolbar, content and data.

The second step in development was the access phase. During this timeframe, members of the NJDOT Research Division reviewed the web page, in order to gain outside perspectives on the desired content. It was at this stage that various design modifications occurred. The access phase also culminated in the display of the website outside of the firewall that the Office of Information Technology provided, so that there could be testing by the Research Division personnel. This meant that the public display portion of the access phase allowed people to begin using the website.



Finally, the implementation phase occurred, signaling the point where others could begin to effectively utilize the web page. During this component, the training of the Research Division employees was underway. Their training occurred through the Rutgers Center for Applied Computing Technologies facilities, and taught three basic programs: Macromedia Dreamweaver, Adobe Acrobat, and Adobe Photoshop.

CONCLUSION:

The New Jersey Department of Transportation Research Division was able to increase their output of technology transfer with the creation of an interactive web page . The web page provides technology transfer through information distribution of both current, and archived research, to those who browse through the site. Current news and updates may be accessed through the “what’s new” page. A photographic outline of the Research Division hierarchy serves as an introduction of potential contacts for those interested in making an inquiry to NJDOT. In addition, the organization’s mission and

strategic plan are easily accessible. The new web page makes online distribution of resources for research associates available literally at the “click of a button”. This is an invaluable tool for University and research communities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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A final report is available online at
<http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/research/research.html>

If you would like a copy of the full report, please FAX the NJDOT, Bureau of Research, Technology Transfer Group at (609) 530-3722 or send an e-mail to Research.Division@dot.state.nj.us and ask for:

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NJDOT Research Report No: FHWA-NJ-2002-024