



SP&R RESEARCH PROGRAM – THE PLAYERS



The Research Advisory Council (RAC)

is made up primarily of Bureau Administrators and provides a cooperative and responsible approach to development of the NHDOT research program. The **RAC** ensures that the research program is responsive to the operational needs of the Department. The **RAC** meets periodically to rate and prioritize potential research projects. Individually, **RAC** members are involved in decisions regarding Department participation in pooled-fund studies.



The Champion

is the energy behind a research study. Usually the **Champion** has initiated the research by submitting a problem statement and presenting it to the **RAC**. The **Champion**, along with the project **Sponsor**, plays a key role in implementing successful research. For in-house research, the **Champion** may also be the **P.I.**



The Sponsor

is an NHDOT Bureau Administrator, Section Chief, District Engineer or other manager close to and supportive of the research. The **Sponsor** approves the **TAG** membership and project Work Plan, and is instrumental in the implementation of successful research.



The Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

develops the project Work Plan and budget, and oversees the research to ensure that project goals are met. **TAGs** typically

consist of three to six members chosen from the operating units of the Department that are most involved with the research subject matter. Non-NHDOT personnel sometimes serve on **TAGs**, and the FHWA NH Division office is often represented. **TAG** activities are guided by the **Champion** and **Sponsor** with assistance from the project **Coordinator**.



The Coordinator

is a representative from the NHDOT Research Section. The **Coordinator's** role is to facilitate project activities and lighten the administrative workload of the **TAG**, allowing **TAG** members to focus on the technical aspects of the study. The **Coordinator** monitors the study's progress and ensures that the research is conducted in accordance with program requirements. On contracted studies, the **Coordinator** processes the contract documents and is the primary liaison between the **TAG** and the **P.I.** The **Coordinator** also facilitates review, publication and distribution of project deliverables, and assists in implementation of promising research results.



The Principal Investigator (P.I.)

is the individual primarily responsible for performing the research tasks and providing the project deliverables. The **P.I.** may be under contract to NHDOT. For in-house research projects, the **Principal Investigator** is often the project **Champion** and generally serves as a member of the **TAG**.



Focus Groups

are assembled on an ad hoc basis to help identify issues related to a specific subject area that can be addressed through research (e.g. structures, policy, environment, etc.).