TRB City Transportation Issues Coordinating Council

**9/8/2022 Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome & Why We Are Here**

**How does research influence the work that gets done? How to connect cities, states and researchers? Are we aware of the issues we need research on? How do we come together to discuss common issues? Overlap with AASHTO – how do we connect NACTO/AASHTO?**

**Problem: Cities don’t do formal research. Cities don’t have a voice at the table.**

* **Dominated by states and consultants.**
* **Funding goes to roads/highways, need for bike/ped**
* **Most state research does not address city issues**
* **States and cities don’t have the same research priorities**
* **Not all states and cities have good relationships or a connection to their research team**

**How Do We Get It Done**

* Introduction to U.S. Research Funding
  + MUTCD is only 13% city rep
  + TCRP, NCHRP dominated by states
  + States set aside 2% of federal funding for research and planning (25% of that goes to research)
  + Pooled Fund Program – mostly known to State DOTs and FHWA, allows pooling of funds, quite easy for state DOTs and FHWA to access, has to be led by one of them. But partners can go beyond states.
    - for urban research – could NACTO help match interested cities to topics?
  + 5339 Urbanized Area Formula funds
* Opportunities for Cities
  + Volunteer for Projects (peer review, problem statement solicitation)
  + Work with State DOT research office
  + Reach out to local research universities
  + Cities Funding Research
    - Pooled fund?
  + Could we start a NACTO research committee?
    - Could NACTO hire a staffer?
    - Would they organize pooling the funds?
  + Work with research universities to do masters class projects
  + Collaborate to fight for change – fight the lawsuits to try new things
  + Identify and advocate for our research needs - Example: rural research roadmap
  + For NACTO to take a role: Has to connect to core mission: Connect to street design and implementation
* UTCs (35) just submitted for next program

**What Do We Want to Research?**

* Discussion: Research Needs

**Establish Working Groups & Next Steps**