Domestic Scan Proposal Form

AASHTO is now soliciting proposals for the **US Domestic Scan Program** (NCHRP Panel 20-68A).

Selected scan topics will be investigated by one of three ways: (type 1) site visits to three to six locations for approximately a two week period or less, by webinar; (type 2) peer exchange; or (type 3) conducted by a group of eight to 12 transportation professionals with expertise in the selected topic area. Proposed topics should meet the following criteria:

* Address an important and timely need for information by transportation agencies;
* Are of interest to a broad national spectrum of people and agencies;
* Are complex and also “hands-on,” meaning they lend themselves particularly well to exploration through on-site visits; and
* Are sufficiently focused that the tour participants are able to investigate and understand key issues in the limited time available on the tour.

Before submitting your proposal it is highly recommended that you read **What Makes a Good Scan Topic Proposal** [**http://www.domesticscan.org/what-makes-a-good-scan-topic-proposal**](http://www.domesticscan.org/what-makes-a-good-scan-topic-proposal)

This form is designed to collect the full length of your proposal. Sections requiring essays have unlimited space for you to use. Contact information has some limited text. ***Click on the highlighted boxes to advance to the area where you need to complete information.***

# Proposals should be returned no later than date list on NCHRP website.

**IMPORTANT NOTE on How to save your document**: ***LastNameFirst Initial, underscore\_Organization Acronym \_CY2021 Saved Document Name Example: NgetheP\_AASHTO\_CY2021***

***If you have more than one, add a number after first initial: NgetheP1\_AASHTO\_CY2021***

# Domestic Scan Proposal Contact Information

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FHWA

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**Date of submission**

10/29/2021

Please **check** this box if your proposal has been endorsed or is being requested through an AASHTO Committee. List the AASHTO Committee(s) that endorsed this proposal: Click or tap here to enter text.

# Title of Proposed Scan: Right-of-Way Use for Clean Energy and Connectivity (CEC)

**Problem Statement** (What topic is to be examined? What drives the need for the scan? Why now?)

State Highway Agencies (SHA) have been granted Highway Easement Deeds (HED) deeds to convey rights to construct and operate highways across federally owned lands of this great nation for decades. SHA have also been given rights to advance highway activities through Public Benefit Conveyances (PBC). These highways provide a gridwork of connectivity across Federal Lands within many States for this great nation. These right-of-way (ROW) actions have been granted in the publics best interest to preserve both the natural and human environment. New technologies, such as renewable energy, alternative fueling, electrical transmission and distribution, and broadband projects (hereinafter known as "Clean Energy and Connectivity" (CEC) projects) are present in today’s society that enhances the human and natural environment. There is a desire to utilize the existing disturbed highway footprint on federal owned lands to install these new CEC technologies. The purpose of this domestic scan is to visit and document efficient and effective best practices that are used by SHA, Federal Land Management Agencies (FLMA), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to allow and install CEC on federal lands, within the already disturbed ROW footprint. Best practices include minimizing repeated excavation of the roadway, coordinating with broadband utilities during highway construction, and integrating trenchless technologies into construction practices, as appropriate. Also, during this process relationships between FLMA, SHA, and FHWA will be enhanced for greater understanding in building it back better.

**Scan Scope** (What specific subject areas are to be examined? Which cities and states might be visited? Which agencies/organizations (including specific departments or types of staff if applicable)?

At the beginning of this domestic scan, a survey will be developed and administered to SHA and FLMA where over 30% of the state is owned and managed by the federal government (AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, NM, NV, OR, UT, & WY). The survey shall capture depth and details of their experience, methods, and use of the highway ROW over federal lands for CEC. Based upon survey results, a Domestic Scan Team shall identify locations of best practices for further review and documentation. The Domestic Scan Team will then identify type of review, materials to be reviewed and collected, governing process, value added, and how others may accelerate the adoption of the proven best practices. The review team should have representation from SHA, FLMA, and FHWA, both Legal and ROW expertise.

**Anticipated Scan Results** (What key information is to be gained? What information is to be shared after the scan? Who would the audience be for this information?)

The outcome of the domestic scan will be documented best practices about how SHA, FLMA, and FHWA work together to be effective and efficient in advancing CEC within the footprint of existing highways over Federal Lands. The document may also include recommendations for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the process, such as when best for the FLMA to deed the property to the SHA through Public Benefit Conveyances (PBC), rather than use a HED. A presentation shall be developed and presented at national and regional meetings to communicate these best practices and accelerate the national deployment of these best practices to advance CEC.

**Benefits Expected** (Including potential impacts on current technology or procedures) One benefit of this domestic scan will be the enhancement of relationships between FLMA, SHA, and FHWA. A second benefit will be the identification and national deployment of best practices to effectively and efficiently advance CEC through PBC or within the footprint of existing HED. As these relationships are enhanced and best practices deployed nationally, they will assist in building the transportation system back better across Federal Lands.