



LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Vision

Through a strong federal and state partnership, the local transportation system is safe, efficient and improves the quality of life for communities.

Mission

- ✓ **Advancing** knowledge through training, technical assistance and innovation across the local surface transportation workforce;
- ✓ **Extending** technology transfer using a broad range of resources to improve workforce skills and abilities; and
- ✓ **Guiding** adoption of emerging technologies and practices promoting greater efficiencies and transforming the local transportation system.

The **Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)** supports local agencies across the United States by providing training, technical assistance and technology transfer services to help them manage and maintain their roadways. It is a small program with a large footprint. Congress authorized the forerunner of the LTAP in 1982 to address the maintenance of rural roadways and bridges through investment at the national and state levels.

Key to the delivery of the national program are the 51 LTAP Centers. Each State and Puerto Rico manages the structure and operation of their Center. Roughly one-quarter of the Centers are operated within State DOTs; three-quarters of the State DOTs contract Center operations to State academic or other industry institutions. FHWA provides \$150,000 annually to all Centers. To receive those funds, State DOTs must, at a minimum, match that amount, but many States choose to add more.

The LTAP is essential to maintaining and continually increasing local work force knowledge, skills and abilities to accelerate project delivery, reduce lifecycle costs, and optimize the operation and performance of local facilities. The local agency workforce is a valuable transportation asset and is the primary stakeholder and recipient of the LTAP training and technical assistance activities.

Last updated in 2012, the LTAP strategic plan is currently being updated with our partner. A foundation for this update is the national survey FHWA conducted in 2018 that sought to identify local agency training needs. The top three training needs identified were project management, data and asset management, and maintenance. While still being developed, the broad brushstrokes of the strategic plan are:

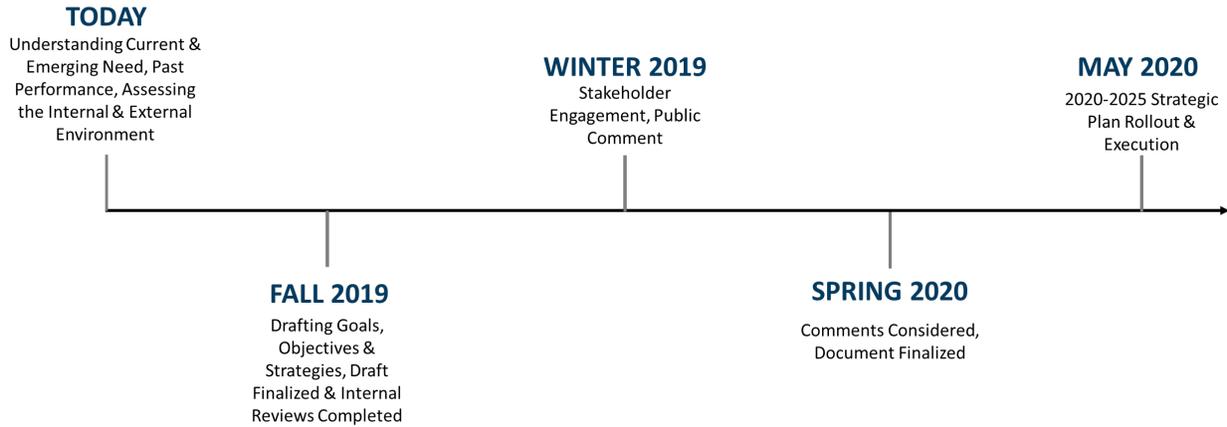
- ✓ Establish core LPA competencies;
- ✓ Identify a comprehensive curriculum to build these competencies;
- ✓ Reinforce the integration of innovations to the LPA community, and;
- ✓ Expand resources and capacity by integrating training from partners.

The LTAP will seek to build capacity within the Centers to achieve the delivery of these strategic goals.





Strategic Plan Timeline



3,632
individuals
representing
2,062 local
agencies
responded to the
national needs
assessment.

Needs Assessment Key Findings:

- ✓ LTAP Center outreach can be improved so that smaller communities achieve greater access to training and technical resources. Only one-third of respondents indicated they were familiar with the LTAP Center in their state and used their services.
- ✓ Local agencies now require more training and technical assistance in areas of expertise not traditionally taught by LTAP Centers.
- ✓ Local agency exposure to innovative techniques and technologies is not widespread.
- ✓ Local agencies are in dire need of more cost-effective ways to acquire new skills.

Most respondents identified **project management, data and asset management, and maintenance** as the three top training needs.

In 2018, the Center for Local-Aid Support negotiated an agreement with AASHTO to provide local governments and tribal transportation practitioners with access to the TC3 on-line training library. Local users have embraced the opportunity and taken more than 600 classes over the past year. In September, 2019 FHWA announced additional access for local agencies and tribes to the National Highway Institute on-line training resources and soon the portfolio will include several courses from the Institute of Transportation Engineers. FHWA’s sponsorship of these resources will provide local agencies and tribes with access to more than 400 training modules.

