

## Examination and Pilot of Alternative Registration Fees for Heavy Trucks Options for Funding the Research Phase

Summary: The table below highlights the important differences between using a pooled-fund approach for the research phase of the project, and submitting an NCHRP problem statement.

The primary benefits of using the pooled-fund approach are: 1) MAASTO would control the timing of research and can ensure that it is completed in time to pursue funding for the pilot phase of the project before the authorizations in the FAST Act expire, and, 2) there is greater certainty the project will be funded.

The primary benefits to seeking NCHRP funding are: 1) each state’s SPR dollars could be programmed for other research or planning activities, and, 2) administration of the research contract will be handled by TRB, for what is really a national, and not MAASTO-region issue.

ISSUE	POOLED-FUND STUDY	NCHRP STUDY
<b>PATH TO FUNDING</b>	Agreement by MAASTO BOD, with a critical mass of states agreeing to participate & contribute	Submission of a problem statement, which competes for funding with approximately 200 other projects  Roughly 35-40 project projects funded each year by NCHRP  Would be aided by strategic lobbying from MAASTO BOD members
<b>IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE</b>	May/July 2017 – MAASTO states commit to pooled fund study  Summer 2017 – Steering committee formed, lead state designated  Jan. 2018 – Research gets underway  Dec. 2018 – June 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research completed</li> <li>• States may pursue implementation funding thru federal STSFA program</li> </ul>	Oct. 2017 – Submission of problem statement  May 2018 – Notification if project is selected for funding  Summer/Fall 2018 – Panel members selected  Spring 2019 – Research gets underway  March – Oct. 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research completed</li> <li>• States may pursue implementation funding thru federal STSFA program – pending continued availability</li> </ul>
<b>RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION</b>	More responsibility on MAASTO states, particularly MAASTO’s lead state.  Several MAASTO states have experience in administering a pooled-fund study	Administration done by TRB.  States maintain oversight through participation on technical panel  Participation could/would extend beyond MAASTO States

**Action Requested:** MAASTO Board to provide recommendation on preferred funding mechanism.