

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
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Transportation Asset Management Guide

A FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTATION

2nd
EDITION

2020

Acknowledgments

This study was conducted as part of National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Project 08-109. NCHRP is supported by annual voluntary contributions from the state departments of transportation (DOTs). The work was guided by an NCHRP project panel and managed by Dr. Andrew Lemer, NCHRP Senior Program Officer.

The contributions of the Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, D.C., Washington State, and Wyoming Departments of Transportation as well as the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Vermont Agency of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and numerous other transportation agencies are acknowledged with thanks.

Special thanks goes to Spy Pond Partners, LLC; Applied Pavement Technology, Inc., and WSP for preparation of this document.

Disclaimer

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ISBN: 978-1-56051-763-4

Publ. Code: TAMGFI-2

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Section 1.1
TAM Basics

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Section 1.2
About This Guide

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Section 1.3
TAM Resources

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Chapter 1
Introduction

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Section 1.1

TAM Basics

covers the definitions used throughout the guide and discusses the high-level principles, elements, and benefits of good TAM practice.



Section 1.2

About This Guide

provides an overview of the organization and features of the guide.



Section 1.3

TAM Resources

provides a brief summary of the resources used throughout the guide and indicates how to access the resources.



Chapter 1 Introduction

Welcome to the Transportation Asset Management (TAM) Guide. Whether you are new to asset management, a seasoned practitioner or an executive, this guide will help to further your understanding of asset management techniques and advance asset management practices at your agency.

TAM is a way of conducting a transportation agency's business to deliver more value in its activities so that the transportation system performs best with the available resources. Most agencies have elements of TAM principles in their existing practice. This guide can help with formalizing TAM practice, identifying areas for improvement, and understanding how to improve. Some of the benefits of TAM include:

- **Improved asset condition, performance, resilience, and longevity.** Asset management involves maintaining the asset condition over the asset's lifetime. Improved condition results in improved performance and ultimately extends the life of an asset compared to the alternative of continually deferring maintenance.
- **Improved accountability.** When asset management practices are embedded in an agency, staff are held accountable within the agency and to customers and stakeholders to follow TAM practices and consistently maintain the assets in a state of good repair. Preparing an asset management plan also ensures accountability by providing reliable information about the condition of assets.

- **Increased efficiency and effectiveness.** When assets are managed following an agreed-upon management strategy, efficiency and effectiveness are improved. Regular maintenance can be planned and scheduled, reducing disruption to service as little as possible.
- **More benefit for each dollar invested.** Transportation assets cost money to build, maintain, operate, and use. By stressing the importance of life-cycle planning and costs and placing agreed levels of service at the core of the asset management process, TAM helps to ensure that the benefits delivered by the network are maximized, while the costs of providing, maintaining, and using it are minimized.
- **Reduced risk exposure.** When assets are maintained and managed consistently and resilience is improved, the agency reduces the exposure to risk.
- **Improved coordination and efficiency.** Asset management helps potential silos within an agency by improving resource allocation and improving coordination among staff on asset management related projects and maintenance.