

**Back-to-Basics/Committee Research Coordinators (CRC)**

**2019 Update for TRB Standing Committee/Task Force Chairs @ the 2020 TRB Annual Meeting**

**Activities, Events and Resources Highlights**

- There are a number of new resources available (<https://sites.google.com/view/trbcrc/home>) for CRCs and chairs, including resources to help guide committees through the research process, funding program webinars, workshop and meeting materials, metrics, and FAQs. Some new resources include:
  - Four Research Cycle webinars were presented in July and August 2019 - <https://sites.google.com/view/trbcrc/home/crc-webinars>. These webinars were based on the Research Cycle Help Guides that were developed and presented at the TRB Annual Meeting in 2019.
  - State DOT, FHWA, and FTA funding program webinars were presented in October and November 2019 - <https://sites.google.com/view/trbcrc/home/crc-webinars>.
  - A CRC Q&A Session was held in December 2019 - <https://sites.google.com/view/trbcrc/home/crc-webinars>
  - 2019 CRC/Chairs Survey was conducted and a Q&A document developed - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1jSxLowIhomRygShVoez16LW8R53752JX>.
  - Made updates to Mapping of AASHTO and TRB Committee Connections to facilitate communication, coordination, and collaboration.
  - Developed a guide for Section and Group CRCs (<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1XF96feOvVi5FyFH2TxN4tTzA1LKf0ZE>).
- New CRCs receive a welcome email with information critical to the CRC and RNS editor roles.
- CRC Website (<https://sites.google.com/view/trbcrc/home?authuser=0>)
  - The structure of the CRC website was updated for improved findability.
  - The CRC website is continually being updated with new materials.
- CRC/Chairs Meeting, Sunday, 1/12/2020, 1:30-4:30 PM (EST), Marriott Marquis, Catholic University (M1)
- Currently finalizing an annotated bibliography on tools for collaborative RNS development.
- Working on a How To document on NCHRP funding.
- Working on a document to help committees define their successes.

**Back-to-Basics: Fostering and Nurturing a Research Agenda Initiative and the CRC Role**

The Back-to-Basics Initiative was established to provide TRB standing committees with the knowledge and tools to develop and maintain robust (quality, not quantity) research portfolios by:

- Identifying research needs within their scope of coverage;
- Developing peer-reviewed research needs statements (RNS);
- Entering RNS into the RNS database;
- Enhancing the probability that this research will be conducted by submitting to funding programs;
- Monitoring ongoing research;
- Disseminating information on relevant ongoing and completed research; and

- Using of a variety of strategies to communicate and interact with stakeholders regarding the availability and implementation of recently completed research, and to foster discussions on the implications to practice and future research needs.

The strategy to implement this initiative involves providing ongoing guidance and training to a community of Committee Research Coordinators (CRC) through the CRC Council. **Note:** The CRCs are not expected to be responsible for all of these activities. Rather, the CRC role is to provide their committee with the resources to complete these activities.

### **Membership**

- Every TRB Technical Activities Standing Committee and Task Forces, Section, and Group can assign a CRC.
  - If you are not sure whether your Committee, Section, and/or Group has a CRC, please check your Committee's, Section's, and/or Group's membership listing on TRB's website or refer to the CRC listing found at <https://www.mytrb.org/directorysearch.aspx>; go to the "Browse TRB Lists" tab and select the last link (Committee Research Coordinators).
  - More and more Sections and Groups are assigning CRCs to facilitate communication, coordination, and collaboration among committees within Sections and Groups.
  - Also, some Sections and/or Groups are opting to create a Joint Research Subcommittee, chaired by the Section and/or Group CRC.
  - **If you would like to assign a CRC or change a CRC assignment for your Committee, Section, and/or Group, please contact Sue Sillick and James Bryant (contact information below).**
- Committee chairs and CRCs are assigned the RNS Editor role (two/committee and one for each Section and Group). RNS Editors are authorized users to enter new RNS, modify current RNS, and archive RNS in the RNS database.
- Every TRB Group has the option to be represented on the CRC Council (<http://www.trb.org/abouttrb/crccouncil.aspx>), which serves to provide direction and priorities to the CRCs, and is the liaison between TRB staff and the CRCs.

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