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**Research Title:**

**Documenting Training Opportunities Related to Transportation Asset Management**

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# **Documenting Training Opportunities Related to Transportation Asset Management**



**Project 06-02**

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## Background

Transportation infrastructure is vital to the economic well being of the individual states and the nation. However, limited budgets, coupled with increasing demand on the transportation network, continue to pose pressing challenges to state transportation decision-makers. To address these demands on infrastructure, decision-makers are working to develop a comprehensive process to assist in evaluating investment options for operating and maintaining transportation facilities. Asset Management systems are emerging as the vehicles to meet this challenge.

## What is Asset Management?

Asset Management is a strategic approach to managing transportation infrastructure. It can be described as the systematic process of operating, maintaining, and upgrading physical assets cost-effectively. It combines engineering and mathematical analyses with sound business practice and economic theory. Asset Management systems are goal-driven and, like the traditional planning process, include components for data collection, strategic evaluation, program selection, and feedback.

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Figure 1: Document Library Interface

## Project Advisory Group

Since no registry of Asset Management training exists, the project relied heavily on an advisory group of transportation professionals who are close to Asset Management activities. The group included representatives from state LTAPs, public sector employees, and private sector consultants who met through a series of teleconferences and email exchanges. This group suggested agencies, institutions and vendors to include in the survey and often provided information on courses that was not available on the internet. These suggestions, in conjunction with an internet search for training opportunities, helped identify available courses. In addition, the advisory group provided guidance on the team's research efforts throughout the course of the study.



## Conclusions

This survey of Asset Management training opportunities provides a broad view of the scope of courses available to the transportation professional and the university student of transportation. The number of professional development courses identified during an internet search suggests that Asset Management techniques have gained the attention of transportation professionals and policy makers at a variety of levels in the decision-making hierarchy. The availability of for-credit courses suggests that students of Civil Engineering are exposed to the tools and techniques of Asset Management as they prepare to go into the professional field of transportation. As the number and variety of university-based Asset Management courses continues to grow, students will come into the transportation field with even greater knowledge of Asset Management practices and tools.