

Welcome to

# SCOPT

Standing  
Committee  
on  
Public  
Transportation



New  
Member  
Reference



# Welcome to the Standing Committee on Public Transportation (SCOPT).

This New Member Reference booklet is designed to familiarize readers with the committee, its workings, and its purpose.

## ■ ■ ■ Introduction to SCOPT

SCOPT is one of 11 standing committees within the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), providing public transportation expertise and leadership for advancing public transportation as a part of an intermodal transportation system. It develops legislative, policy, and program recommendations related to all forms of passenger public transportation services including rural, urban, regional and intercity bus, travel demand management and commuter rail. SCOPT's strategic plan identifies the following goals:

- Lead and influence national policy related to public transportation;
- Advance public transportation as part of an integrated transportation system;
- Strengthen SCOPT's leadership role within AASHTO and among other national organizations, institutions, and groups with complementary purposes and goals;
- Identify and promote research and develop educational resources to support public transportation providers;
- Provide world-class technical assistance and support to state DOTs in their delivery of public transportation programs; and
- Increase the pool of state DOT professionals willing and able to work with SCOPT and serve in leadership roles.

SCOPT investigates available data and disseminates information to Member Departments, collects information on new and improved equipment and practices that will enhance operational aspects, and operates a forum to exchange information. It identifies and receives reports from its subcommittees and task forces as to federal regulatory mandates of national concern.

Through general strategic direction SCOPT supports the Multi-State Technical Assistance Program (MTAP). MTAP's primary purposes are to provide technical assistance to help states implement Federal Transit Administration Programs, to provide feedback to FTA on implementation issues, and to create a professional network for sharing best practices. For more information, contact Andy House ([ahouse@aaashto.org](mailto:ahouse@aaashto.org)).

SCOPT is responsible for defining the overall roles and responsibilities for the various individuals and groups involved in its work. It is also responsible for ensuring a clear delegation of authority and accountability to AASHTO staff and various subteams regarding long-term and task-specific activities. SCOPT's Executive Committee leads responsibility for policy issues and MTAP leads responsibility for technical/operational issues.

## ■ ■ ■ Joining SCOPT

Membership on SCOPT includes one representative of each member department of transportation (DOT)—the 50 States, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of each member DOT assigns its representative to the committee. The President shall appoint the Chair and Vice Chair of the standing committee. In order to complete the entrance process, new members must register for an AASHTO account at this website. Doing so enables them to receive e-mail updates on news and upcoming events, as well as queries and the latest surveys from SCOPT. Being a member also grants access to an experienced nationwide network of knowledgeable professionals and leaders in public transportation. Since many of AASHTO's initiatives involve interactions and partnerships with federal agencies, SCOPT continually operates at this strategic intersection between state and national policy.

Along with having the ability to access a broad range of informative and technical resources, members can collaborate and bring key best practices and insights back to their states. Members have the capability to use their AASHTO account to log-in and contribute materials to the committee's website.

## ■ ■ ■ Member Responsibilities

SCOPT encourages active participation from its members. Attending meetings, participating in conference calls, and posing and answering technical queries for the technical assistance program are just a few avenues to provide input and value to the committee. To the extent possible, engaging with liaisons and fellow members about developments in your state is always appreciated.

## ■ ■ ● Meetings

SCOPT gathers at least once a year in a different location around the country, in formats such as roundtables and state partnership meetings. These events are attended by members as well as agency officials and industry leaders. Participants conduct committee business and are informed on the latest best practices, legislative movement, and other issues through various scheduled speaker sessions, local site tours, and interactive discussions with peers. Specific details about the next meeting will be posted on the committee's website.

Additionally, AASHTO convenes various annual meetings, which serve as beneficial opportunities to learn about developments occurring within other modes of transportation. Information about these events can be found on the Meetings and Registration page of AASHTO's website.

## ■ ■ ● More Information

If you have further questions, please contact AASHTO's liaison to SCOPT: **Shayne Gill** ([sgill@aaashto.org](mailto:sgill@aaashto.org)). For more information regarding MTAP, contact: **Andy House** ([ahouse@aaashto.org](mailto:ahouse@aaashto.org))



### **AASHTO Standing Committee on Public Transportation**

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