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RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE

Iowa Highway Research Board History
Book Development

SPONSORS

Iowa Highway Research Board
(IHRB Project TR-825)
Iowa Department of Transportation



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The mission of the Institute for Transportation (InTrans) at Iowa State University is to save lives and improve economic vitality through discovery, research innovation, outreach, and the implementation of bold ideas.

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Iowa Highway Research Board History Book Development

tech transfer summary

The final publication from this effort, *Iowa Highway Research Board: 2000–2024*, demonstrates the importance and impact of the Iowa Highway Research Board and its contributions over the past 25 years.

Objective

The objective of this project was to create a book that encompasses the Iowa Highway Research Board's (IHRB's) history and funded projects from 2000 to 2024.

Background

In 1999, the Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE) at Iowa State University's (Iowa State's) Institute for Transportation (InTrans) developed the book *Iowa Highway Research Board: 1949–1999* (Isenberg 1999). The book summarized the history of highway research in Iowa, the germination of the IHRB, and highlights of the board's research program in its first 50 years.

Problem Statement

Given the technological, computational, and theoretical advances in transportation engineering over the past 25 years, along with a desire to highlight the board's historical and current impacts, the IHRB was interested in continuing the narrative begun in *Iowa Highway Research Board: 1949–1999* to cover the board's history since 1999.

Project Description

Over a project period of 25 months beginning in 2023, InTrans Publications Group staff completed the following activities to produce *Iowa Highway Research Board: 2000–2024*:

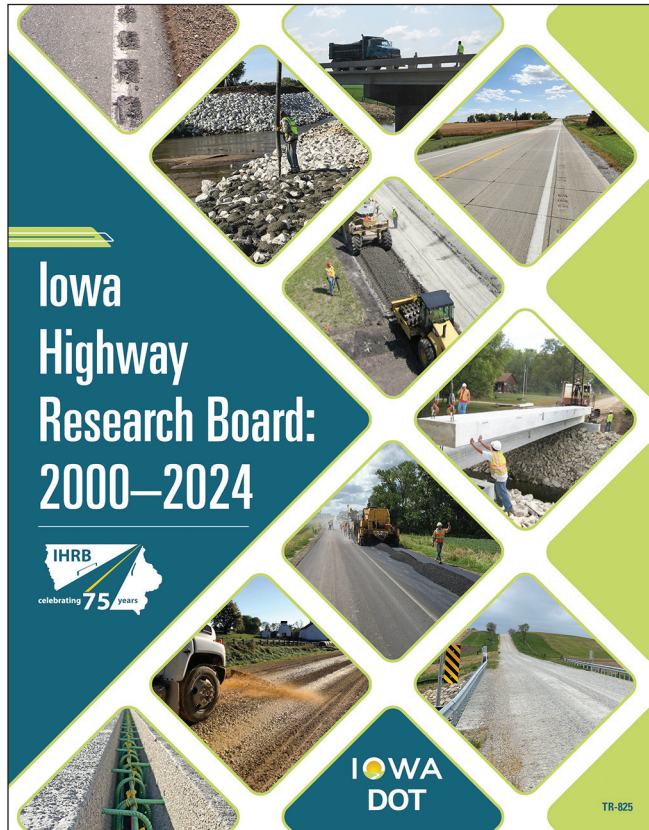
- Conducted a literature review that included a review of IHRB meeting minutes since 2001
- Reviewed 200+ select IHRB projects and, with guidance from the technical advisory committee, grouped the projects into 18 themes and 8 major topics that formed the basis for the final themed chapters
- Conducted interviews with 19 individuals, including current and former board members as well as past and present researchers on IHRB projects
- Gathered additional insights through email correspondence with other board members, researchers, practitioners, and Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) staff
- Drafted the text for the book's nine chapters, which ultimately amounted to 84 print pages

- Collected/collated information for two appendices: (1) a historical list of IHRB chairs and vice chairs and (2) a complete list of IHRB projects initiated between 1999 and 2024
- Collected photographs and drafted captions to support the text
- Designed the book layout and coordinated the printing of the 103-page final publication

Key Findings

The final published book (produced in both PDF and print format) includes the following nine chapters:

1. Introduction, including a timeline detailing significant events of the IHRB during the past 25 years
2. Rural Road Safety
3. Low-Volume Roads
4. Pavement Preservation
5. Concrete Pavements
6. Bridges
7. Standards and Specifications
8. Sustainability
9. Innovative Projects



Iowa Highway Research Board: 2000–2024

In addition, the book includes two appendices that cover the full list of IHRB projects since 1999 and a list of IHRB chairs and vice chairs since 2001.

During the course of this effort, it was found that one of the keys to the board's success has been its collaborative nature. Since its founding, and particularly over the past few decades, the IHRB's cooperative spirit has led the group to assume additional roles, such as Iowa's Every Day Counts (EDC) Statewide Transportation Innovation Council (STIC), and to connect IHRB researchers with national, state, and local practitioners who will ultimately implement the results of the research.

Implementation Readiness and Benefits

The final deliverable from this project, *Iowa Highway Research Board: 2000–2024*, is a publication available in both print and electronic formats that summarizes the board's most recent 25 years. The book details the meaningful advances in transportation and technology that have resulted from the board's funding during that time and illustrates how the board and its research have had a widespread impact nationally and internationally.

With more information available than ever before, it is often difficult to break through the noise to promote research impacts. *Iowa Highway Research Board: 2000–2024* is a resource that demonstrates the importance and impact of the IHRB and its contributions to transportation practice.

Reference

Isenberg, Joseph M. 1999. *Iowa Highway Research Board: 1949–1999*. Iowa State University, Ames, IA.