

PRI RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT 2010

DOT Project Delivery: Staff Interim Report Highlights

Why is the Program Review Committee (PRI) conducting this study?

- PRI is carrying out the second phase of its Results Based Accountability (RBA) pilot project, mandated by Public Act 09-166, that is assessing the RBA approach as a tool for legislative oversight.
- As its first pilot project study focused on selected human services programs, the committee decided to further test the RBA approach by applying it to a different budget area and type of program – Department of Transportation (DOT) project delivery.

What are the purposes of this Interim Report?

- Provide a basic understanding of DOT project delivery
- Summarize staff progress to date in assessing DOT project delivery performance
- Obtain feedback from PRI members, other legislators, and the public on a working draft RBA framework for the study and possible indicators and performance measures about end results

What is in this report?

- *Description of the DOT project delivery process* and the agency mission, structure, and resources
- *Working Draft RBA Framework for the study*, which shows in a one-page chart both levels of accountability examined through the RBA review process: population and program.
 - The population-level aspects of RBA include:
 - *A statement about the quality of life results* to which DOT project delivery makes a significant contribution;
 - *Potential key indicators* for measuring statewide progress toward those results;
 - Identification of the state’s *main strategies* for, and state agency and community *partners* with roles in, achieving the desired results statement.
 - Program accountability aspects include *key performance measures* for DOT project delivery that address three main RBA questions:
 - How much did we do?
 - How well did we do it?
 - Is anyone better off?
- *Preliminary RBA “report card”* for assessing DOT project delivery program performance

What has been learned, so far?

- DOT project delivery is a complex, multi-faceted process encompassing both project development and project implementation. Given time and staffing constraints, it was necessary to limit the study scope to the implementation phase of the process and to focus on major projects.
- Identifying appropriate performance measures and progress indicators, and developing related outcome data will be challenging; available results information has many limitations.

What are the PRI staff’s next steps?

- In-depth interviews with DOT and federal staff directly involved in the process
- Additional stakeholder meetings
- Research on best practices for transportation project delivery
- Examine some selected projects for “lessons learned” about successful delivery
- Produce an RBA Data Development Agenda that includes priority areas for further research
- Determine possible ways, particularly low- and no-cost changes, for improving outcomes