

# Centers of Excellence: what are they and what do they do?

Presented by

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*2012 AASHTO Subcommittee on Right of Way and Utilities Conference*

*Marriott Waterfront Hotel – Portland, Oregon  
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# Introduction

- What is Out There?
- What are They?
- What do they Do?
- Who provides Oversight?
- How are they Funded?
- How are they Staffed?
- Questions

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# What is Out There?

- Three Examples
  - Center of Environmental Excellence
  - Center of Excellence for Project Finance
  - Rail Resource Center

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# What Are They?

- Mission:
  - Environmental:
    - “Promote environmental stewardship and to encourage innovative ways to streamline the transportation delivery process. The Center is designed to serve as a resource for transportation professionals seeking technical assistance, training, information exchange, partnership-building opportunities, and quick and easy access to environmental tools.”

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# What Are They? – Cont'd

- Mission:
  - Project Finance
    - “Provide support to State Departments of Transportation in the development of finance plans and project oversight tools and to develop and offer training and state-of-the-art finance methods to advance transportation projects and leverage funding.”

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# What Do They Do?

- Service Provided
  - *Web Site (Environment, Project Finance & Rail)*
  - *Practitioner's Handbook Series (Environment)*
  - *Peer Exchanges (Environment)*
  - *Webcasts/Webinars (Environment)*
  - *Communities of Practice (Environment)*
  - *Topic Specific Research (Environment & Project Finance)*

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# What Do They Do? – Cont'd

- Service Provided – Cont'd
  - *Programmatic Agreement Library (Environment)*
  - *Professional Education (Project Finance)*
  - *Technical Assistance (Project Finance)*
  - *Information Dissemination (Project Finance)*

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# How are They Funded?

- Funding Sources
  - Environmental and Project Finance
    - Cooperative Agreement with FHWA
  - Environmental and Rail
    - AASHTO Technical Service Program (Voluntary Contributions by States)

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# How are They Staffed?

- Staffing Information
  - Environment, Project Finance and Rail are staffed by AASHTO
  - The Environment and Project Finance utilize contractors to assist with various tasks



# More Information?

- Visit the Links below:
  - <http://environment.transportation.org/>
    - Contact: Kate Kurgan ([kkurgan@ashto.org](mailto:kkurgan@ashto.org))
  - <http://www.transportation-finance.org/>
    - Contact: Joung Lee ([cepf@transportation.org](mailto:cepf@transportation.org))
  - <http://www.highspeed-rail.org/Pages/RPX.aspx>
    - Contact Shayne Gill ([sgill@ashto.org](mailto:sgill@ashto.org))

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# Questions?

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