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

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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
What is Out There?

• Three Examples
  – Center of Environmental Excellence
  – Center of Excellence for Project Finance
  – Rail Resource Center
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.”
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.”
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)*
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)
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)
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:
    • Contact: Kate Kurgan ([kkurgan@aashto.org](mailto:kkurgan@aashto.org))
    • Contact: Joung Lee ([cepf@transportation.org](mailto:cepf@transportation.org))
  – [http://www.highspeed-rail.org/Pages/RPX.aspx](http://www.highspeed-rail.org/Pages/RPX.aspx)
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Questions?
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