



## WHAT IS BENEFIT COST ANALYSIS?

A BCA attempts to capture all benefits and costs accruing to society from a project or course of action, regardless of which particular party realizes the benefits or costs, or the form these benefits and costs take. Used properly, a BCA reveals the most economically efficient investment alternative; i.e., the one that maximizes the net benefits to the public from an allocation of resources.

## WHAT ARE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS STRATEGIES?

Programs, projects, or services designed to get the safest and most efficient use out of existing and planned infrastructure. Examples include:

- Traffic incident management
- Traveler information services
- Traffic signal coordination
- Transit priority/integration
- Freight management
- Work zone management
- Special event management
- Road weather management
- Active transportation and demand management

### USDOT BCA Resources available at:

<http://www.plan4operations.dot.gov/topsbctool/index.htm>

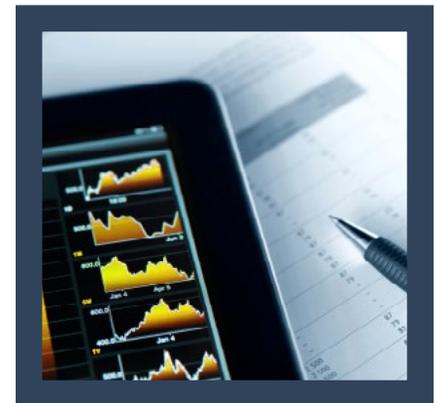
### USDOT Planning for Operations Resources available at:

<http://plan4operations.dot.gov/>

To request BCA Technical Assistance, send an email to [OpsBCASupport@dot.gov](mailto:OpsBCASupport@dot.gov) describing your technical assistance need.

## Operations Benefit Cost Analysis Technical Assistance

The Federal Highway Administration Office of Operations is providing limited\* technical assistance to State and local agencies that are currently conducting or are planning to conduct Benefit Cost Analyses (BCA) of transportation operations strategies. This assistance is intended to help clarify and apply FHWA developed BCA products, guidance, and methods, including the *TOPS-BC* tool, to address economic analysis needs. It is not intended to substitute for agency resources, focus on related planning tools (e.g. travel demand models), or replace or substitute for BCA consultant services that agencies would otherwise be seeking.



Due to an increasingly competitive fiscal environment, state, regional, and local transportation planning organizations around the country are being asked more than ever to justify their programs and expenditures through the performance of BCA. In response to the needs of system operators to conduct these analyses, a number of initiatives have been undertaken in recent years at the national, state, and regional levels to develop enhanced analysis tools, methodologies and information sources to support BCA for many specific transportation management and operations strategies. It often remains difficult, however, for practitioners to weed through the multiple information and guidance sources in order to understand and apply an appropriate methodology for meeting their own specific analysis needs.

**To request Operations BCA technical assistance**, please send an email to [OpsBCASupport@dot.gov](mailto:OpsBCASupport@dot.gov) and include your agency name and location and a description of the technical assistance needed. An Operations BCA technical assistance team member will respond to your email within a week of receipt.

\* Up to 10 hours of technical assistance provided remotely.



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway Administration**