



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 ROAD WEATHER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES?

RWM strategies include the direct application of technologies and infrastructure as well as various operational methods to alleviate the impacts of weather on the highway system. RWM strategies fall into four categories:

1. Surveillance, Monitoring, and Prediction
2. Advisory and Information Dissemination
3. Traffic Management and Control,
4. Maintenance or Treatment

USDOT BCA Resources available at:

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

FHWA Road Weather Management Resources available at:

www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/weather

To request RWM BCA Technical Assistance, send an email to RWMBCASupport@dot.gov describing your technical assistance need.

Road Weather Management Benefit Cost Analysis Technical Assistance

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Operations is providing limited technical assistance* to State, regional and local transportation agencies that are currently conducting or are planning to conduct Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) of Road Weather Management (RWM) 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, digress into topics not central to RWM BCA, or replace or substitute for consultant services that agencies would otherwise be seeking.



Due to an increasingly competitive fiscal environment, transportation agencies around the country are being asked more than ever to justify their programs and expenditures through application of BCA. Several initiatives have been undertaken in recent years to develop enhanced economic analysis tools, methodologies and information sources to support BCA for different road weather management strategies. It often remains difficult, however, for practitioners to weed through the multiple information and guidance sources in order to understand and apply the appropriate methodology for meeting their own specific needs. FHWA and its consultant team can help those agencies better understand and make decisions regarding BCA.

To request Operations BCA technical assistance, please send an email to RWMBCASupport@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