

National Transportation Library: Overview and Update

3 March 2010

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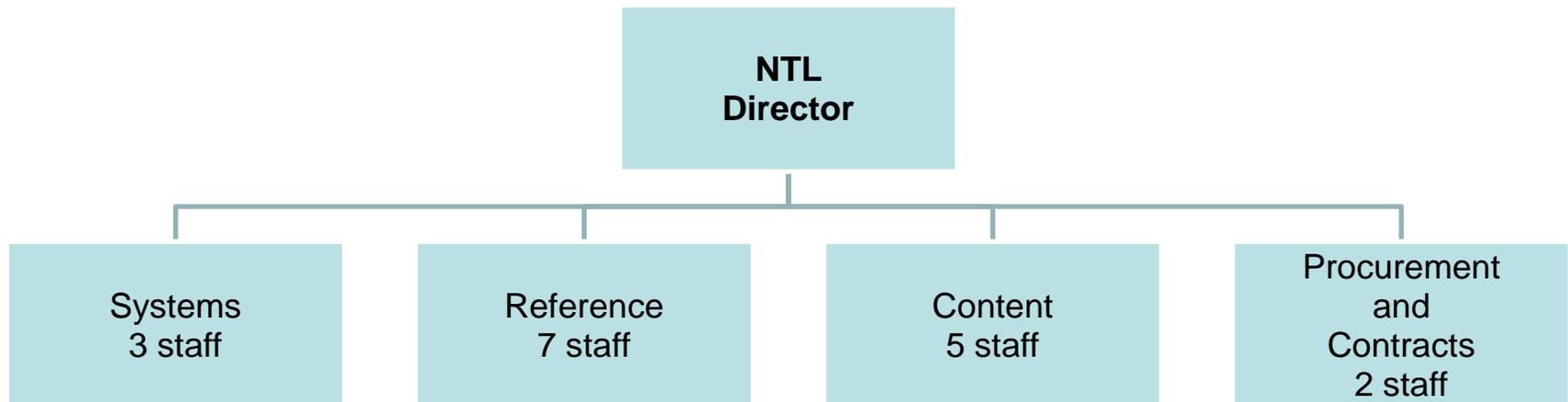
Director, National Transportation Library

Agenda

- Structure
 - USDOT Library Merger
- Services
- Stakeholders
- Strategies for the Future



Structure -- Organizational



The National Transportation Library is a program of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration's Bureau of Transportation Statistics.



Structure – Funding Streams

- Research and Innovative Technology Administration
 - \$1.1M for programs (including contractors, software, collections)
 - \$1.75M for FTE
 - External focus for services
- Office of the Secretary
 - \$525K for
 - \$1.035M for FTE/overhead
 - Working Capital Fund program
 - Internal focus for services (evolved over time)



Services-Mandate



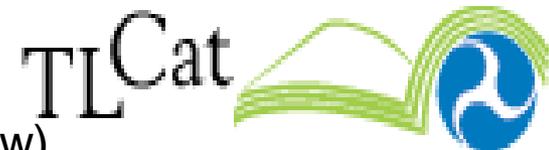
- SAFETEA-LU
 - Maintain a collection of statistical and other transportation information
 - Facilitate access to the collection
 - Coordinate with other transportation libraries and information providers in support of first two goals
- Vision

The National Transportation Library (NTL) is a dynamic Federal gateway that responds to the research needs of the greater transportation community by providing leadership, access to both print and electronic transportation resources, and utilizing partnerships and collaboration to offer premier research and knowledge management services.



Services

- Reference Services
 - USDOT “Contact Us”; RITA/BTS Answers Team
 - USDOT and TIGER FAQs
 - User training sessions
 - Traditional reference and research services
- Collections and Resources
 - 40,000-item digital repository
 - 100,000+ item physical collection (technical and law)
 - 100 electronic databases
 - 300 journal subscriptions
 - Increasing traffic
- Networking Activities
 - Transportation Knowledge Networks
 - Transportation Librarians Roundtable
 - TLCat (Transportation Libraries Catalog)



USDOT Reference Service - Details

How to contact us:

- RITAInfo@dot.gov (RITA and DOT web forms)
- By telephone at 800-853-1351
- Recovery Act information: tigerteam@dot.gov or 202-366-0747

Volume

- 1000-2500 questions/month for last 12 months
- 70%-80% are e-mails, the rest phone calls
- Average of 330/month are ARRA questions (since 3/09)
- Average of 300/month are RITA-related
- 30-35% of questions to our web form answered immediately by knowledgebase-suggested FAQs

Timeliness

- Questions answered within 4 business days (usually faster)
- ARRA questions answered within 24 hours
- Callers generally reach a live person right away



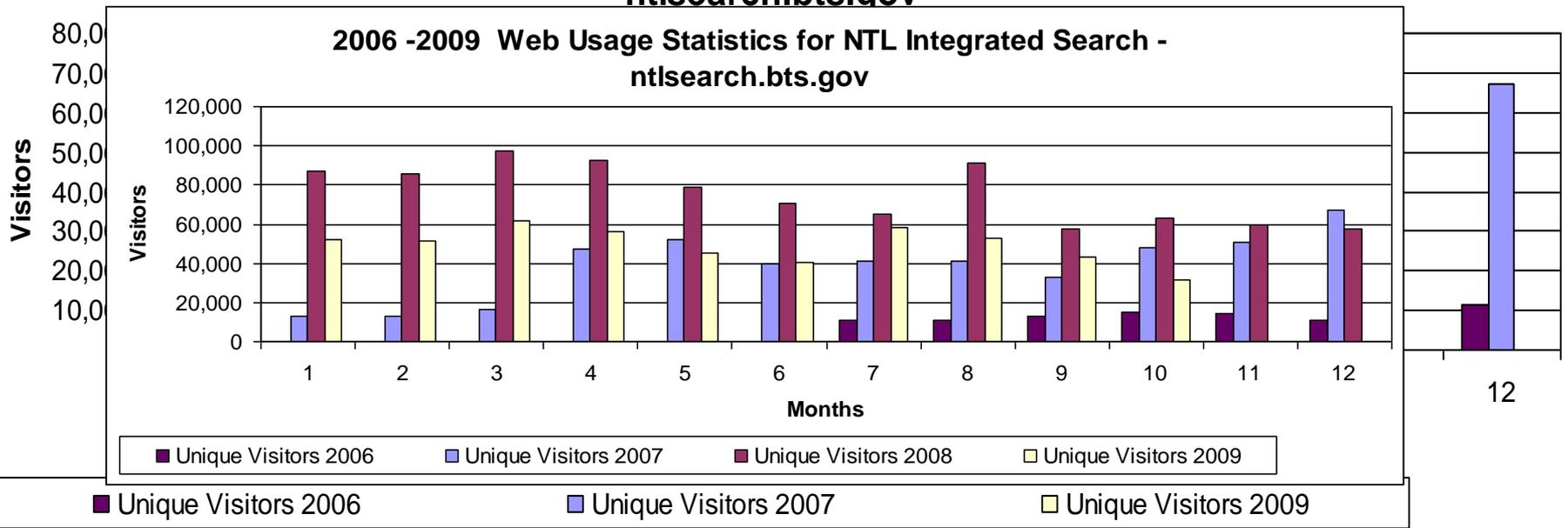
NTL Digital Repository and Services -- Details

- Digital Repository
 - Homegrown OAI-PMH compliant repository
 - Purpose: serve as central clearinghouse and archive for public access transportation information
 - Special features: access to specialized collections and integration of USDOT repositories in our platform
- NTL Discovery Solution
 - Integrate repository, catalog, commercial databases, external partner resources
 - Enables team to focus on content acquisition and management, not interface design
- Transportation Research Thesaurus
 - 9500+ terms
 - Developed as a project of the NCHRP project of the Transportation Research Board



Increasing Access to Information

2006 -2009 Web Usage Statistics for NTL Integrated Search - ntlsearch.bts.gov

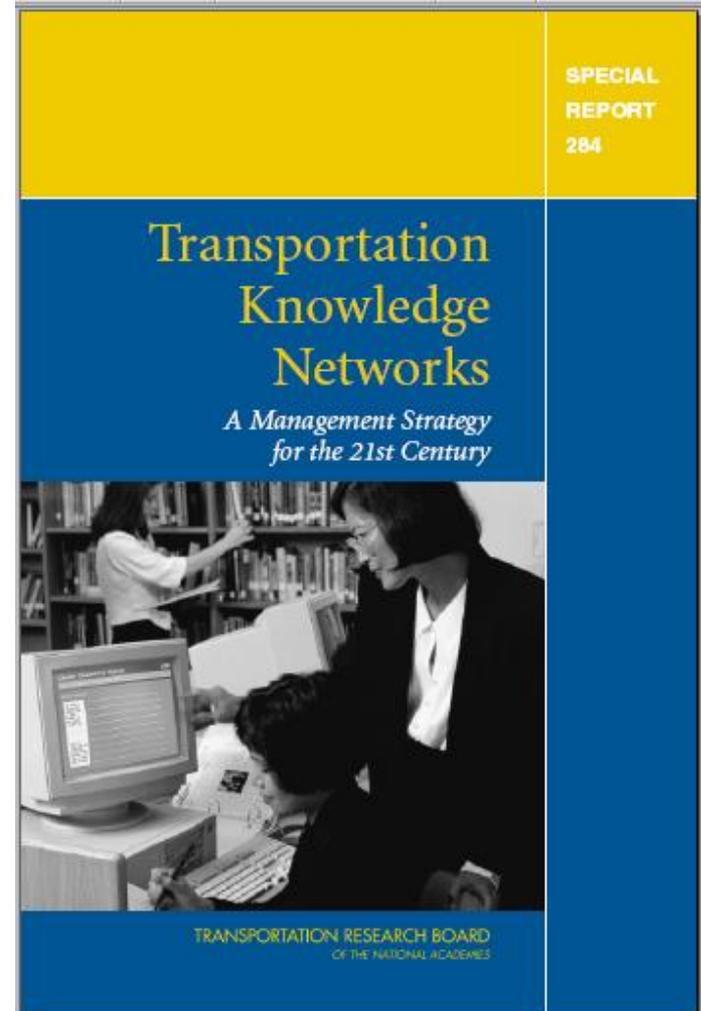


Transportation Knowledge Networks

TRB Special Report 284

Recommendations

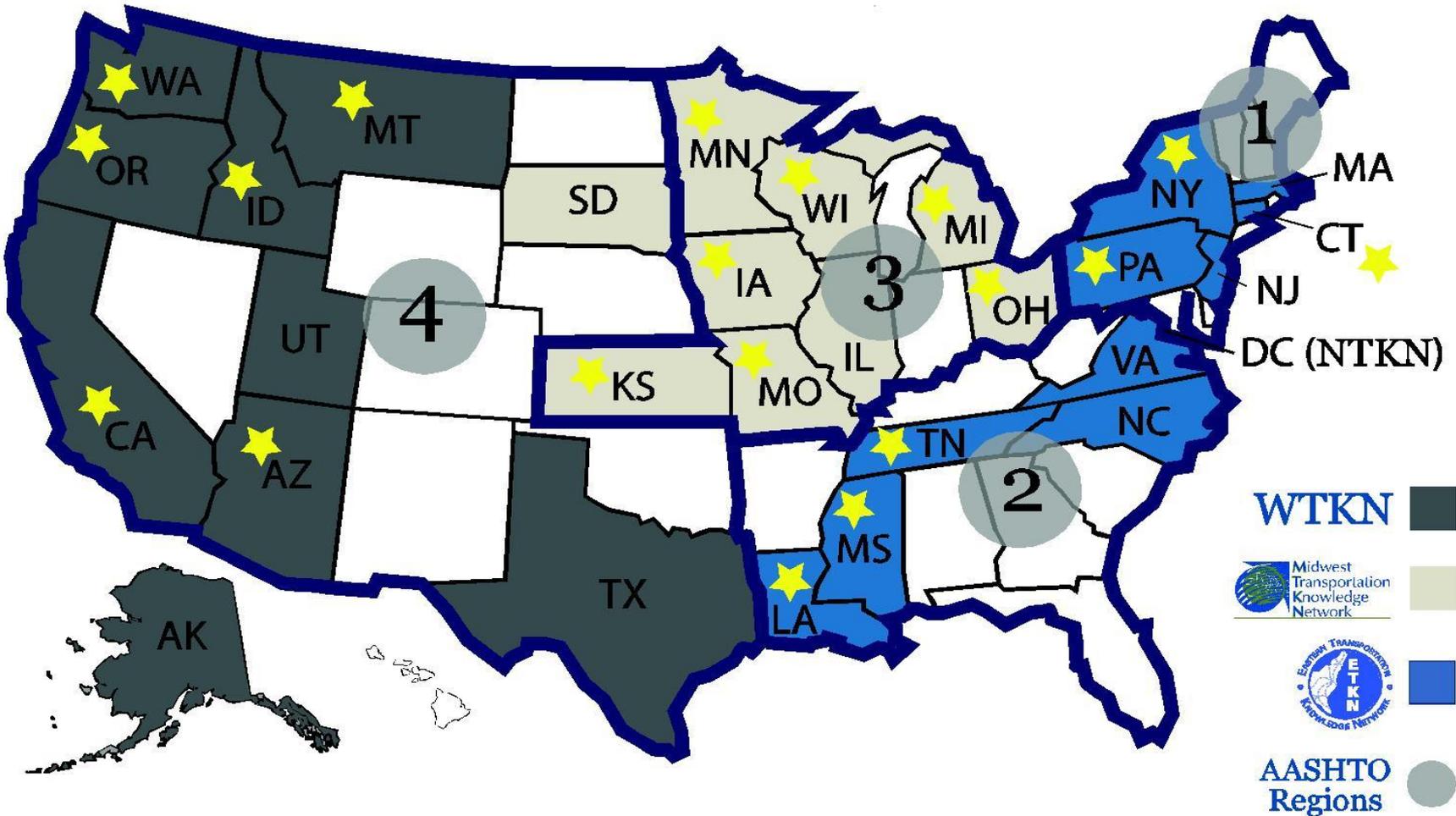
- Proposed a network of Transportation Knowledge Networks with a National Coordinating Structure
- Need for a strong governing body to provide policy, oversight, and to act as a champion for transportation information and Transportation Knowledge Networks
- Seek broad-based funding support from multiple sources to sustain operations.
 - Provide federal grants for start up
 - Grow federal funds
 - Develop local match
- NCHRP project to develop a business plan



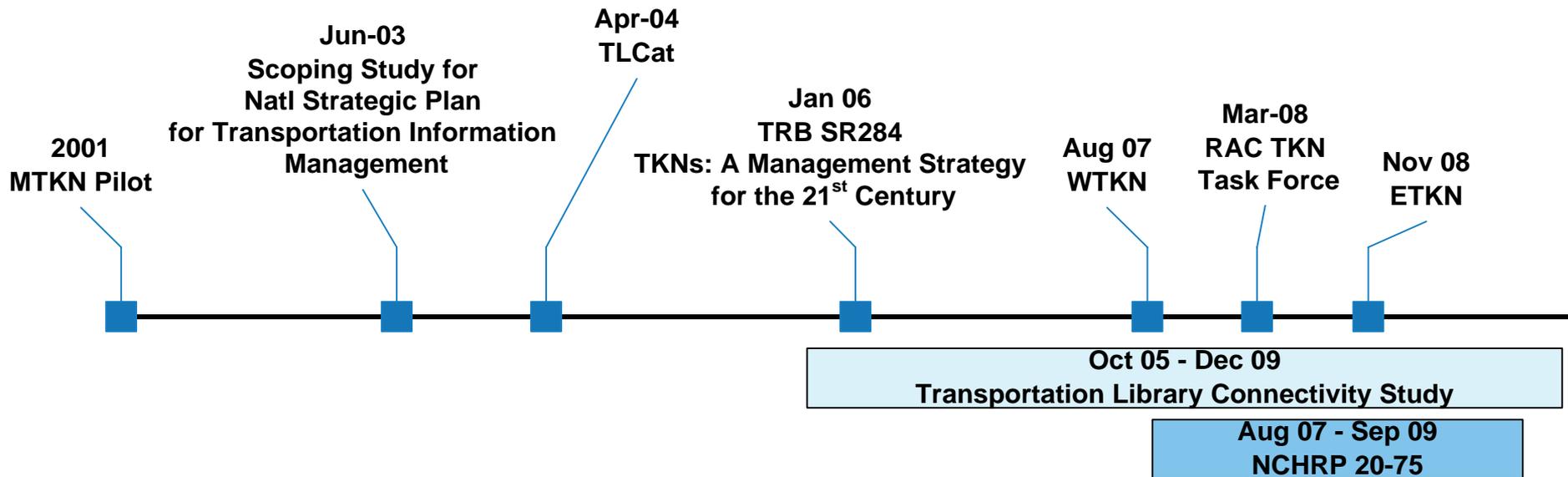
Transportation Research Board of the National Academies 2006



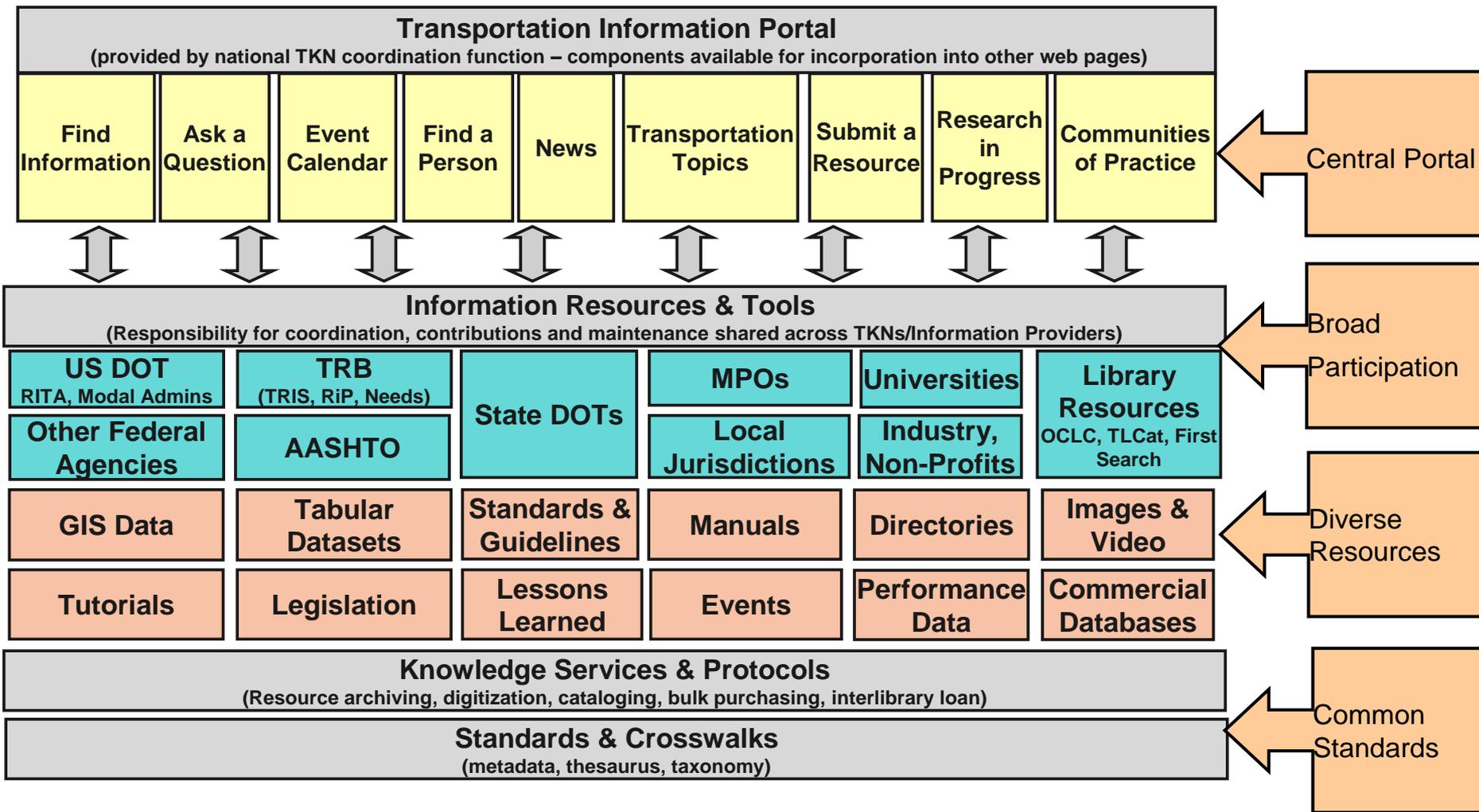
Transportation Knowledge Networks



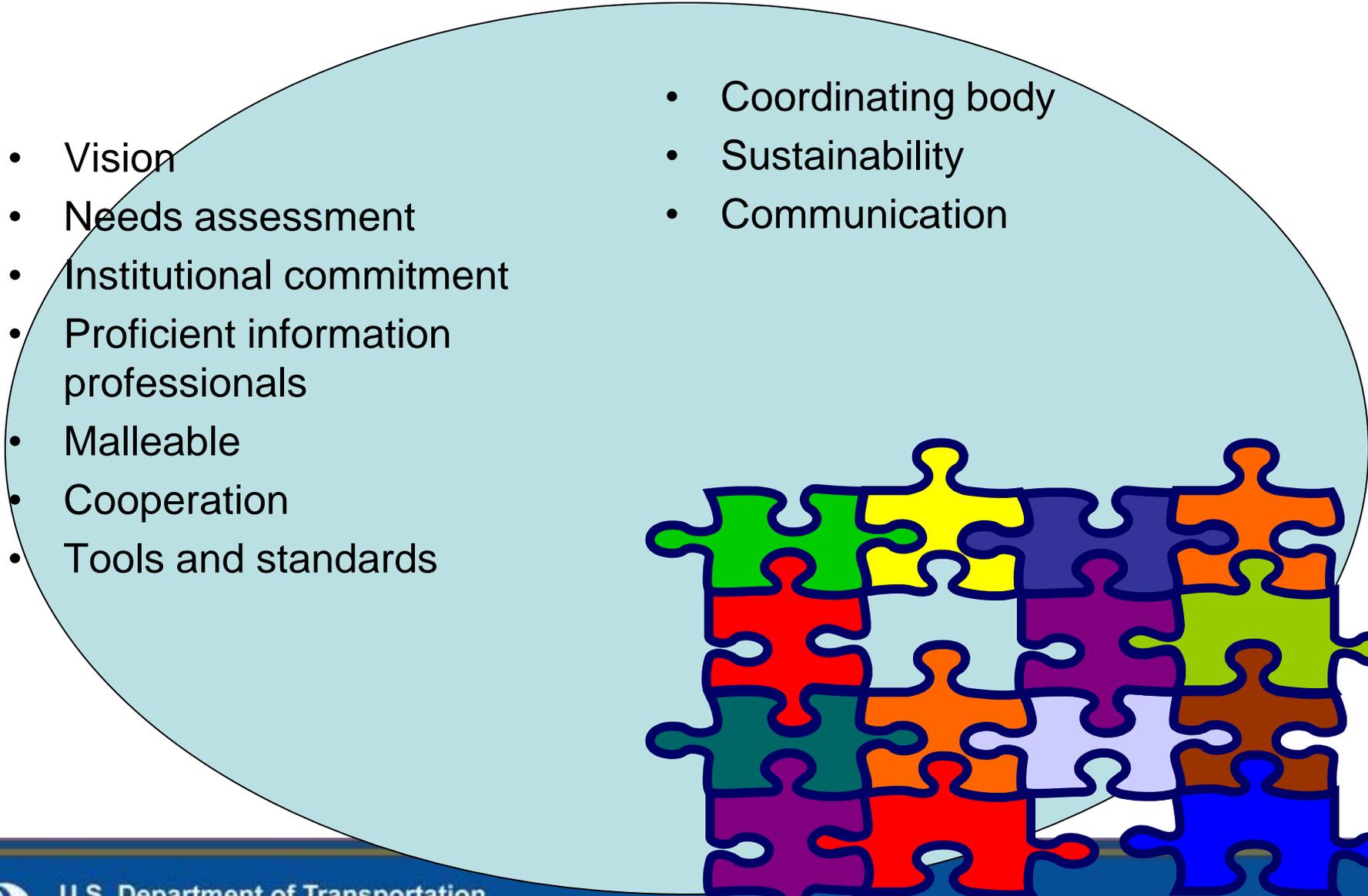
Timeline



Future Vision: Information Sharing Infrastructure



Transportation Information Infrastructure



Transportation Knowledge Networks - 2009

Example Mission (Western TKN):

Connect transportation resources and information from (member) organizations to facilitate research and implementation

Example Membership Criteria (Eastern TKN):

- *Be involved in transportation research and/or practice*
- *Have library or information services, or a related department with an accessible collection of transportation information resources available to TKN members*
- *Have cataloged or systematically organized collections*
- *Be willing and able to provide access to local collections and services*
- *Designate a representative responsible for communicating with other TKN members.*

Example TKN Activities:

- *Contribution of topical material to central information portals*
- *Posting of member research links to common web page*
- *Cataloging of information into a “union” catalog for transportation*
- *Digitization of state DOT high-use, high-value materials*
- *Networking & capacity building among membership*



Strategies for the Future

- Move discovery/federated search to discovery
- Continue development of TRT to ontology and link with other taxonomy and thesaurus efforts
- Improved competencies in knowledge management and knowledge sharing
- Closer partnership and collaboration with records management within the USDOT
- Strengthen role as a leader in information management, sharing, standards, and technologies (i.e. science.gov) for transportation



Questions/Comments?

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