

# TSMO BCA

*State and local agencies want to maximize their investments and select projects that provide the most value for their given budget. This increasingly includes transportation systems management and operations (TSMO), for which benefit-cost analysis (BCA) methods are not as well understood.*

BCA is a systematic process for calculating and comparing benefits and costs of a project to 1) determine if it is a sound investment and 2) see how it compares with alternate projects. BCA provides a framework for translating project impacts into monetized benefits and for comparing those benefits against the costs to implement the project.

## What is this training about?

The goal of this course is to help transportation planners, TSMO practitioners, and other transportation professionals better communicate the economic value of investing in TSMO and to outline the steps for conducting BCAs of TSMO projects. This course explores how TSMO BCA can be used as a sketch planning tool for quick evaluation of potential alternatives and to evaluate the merits of a TSMO project.

## Why is this training important?

Transportation agencies are being asked to justify their programs and expenditures. In many cases, TSMO projects have been shown to provide significant benefits at lower costs. BCAs are an important element in justifying these TSMO initiatives as they allow a ranking and prioritizing against alternative investments. BCA is also an important factor in evaluating projects proposed for many competitive grant programs.

## Course at a Glance TSMO BCA (NHI-133142)

### Course Level

- Intermediate level
- Recommended prerequisite: TSMO 101 (NHI-133140)

### Target Audience

- Transportation planners and TSMO practitioners interested in evaluating the benefits of TSMO strategies or justifying investments through a formal BCA process
- Other state DOT, metropolitan planning organization, and local agency staff interested in BCA, such as individuals involved in budgeting or project programming

### Course Time & Type

- 4 hours
- Self-paced Web-based training (WBT)

### Course Modules

- Welcome and Introduction
- Module 1: TSMO Strategy Benefits and Costs
- Module 2: BCA Fundamentals
- Module 3: Application of BCA for TSMO Strategies
- End of Course Assessment

