

## **Project 5-5541 - Regional Workshops on Sustainability Enhancement Tool**

### *“Integrating Sustainability into TxDOT's Transportation Decision-Making”*

As a part of TxDOT’s research program, TTI was commissioned to develop a method of “sustainability enhancement”, to address sustainability as well as TxDOT’s strategic plan goals. This was done under TxDOT Project 0-5541 – Developing Sustainable Transportation Performance Measures for TxDOT’s Strategic Plan. The work done as a part of this research has been well accepted – several presentations and technical papers have resulted from it. This work, done at the Texas level has also led to a national project under the National Cooperative Highway Research Program.

The product of the 0-5541 research project was a sustainability enhancement tool in the form of an excel-based performance measurement calculator and accompanying reference manual. The aim of this project was to conduct workshops to introduce concepts of sustainability and use of this tool. It can be viewed as a “value planning” tool (similar to the value engineering concept) that can help assess the sustainability of projects and also inform the NEPA process. Researchers developed workshop instructional material, and conducted a workshop walkthrough in College Station, TX on April 24, 2009. A total of 6 workshops were conducted across Texas in FYs 2009 and 2010.