

Accomplishments

The North/West Passage states have collaborated since 2001. Accomplishments of the corridor include:

- North and South Dakota 511 callers can select to receive information on Minnesota's highways
- Creation of the program website (nwpassage.info)
- Development of one proposal to hire a contractor to perform work in two bordering states.
- Completion of a Strategic Plan to guide the future of the corridor.
- Each state uses their own phrases to describe road events. The North/West Passage defined and agreed upon a set of consistent event description phrases to use across the I-90 and I-94 corridor.
- Created a website to provide traveler information along a corridor (i90i94travelinfo.com)
- Provided a forum for state patrol/police and DOT staff to discuss integration of systems.
- Held a workshop to identify action items for increased cross-border operation and maintenance collaboration.
- Participated in the USDOT Clarus initiative which demonstrated an integrated surface transportation weather observing, forecasting, and data management system. The result of the project was an example of all North/West Passage states working together to develop a corridor Concept of Operations document.

Benefits and Successes

The North/West Passage member states have identified the following benefits they have gained from participating in the pooled fund:

- Provided important contacts
- Served as a forum to share lessons learned
- Led to the revamping of one state's 511 system
- Provided topics and addressed issues that have been timely and important before moving forward with a project
- Led to an evaluation of the way business is conducted in our state
- Assisted in making revisions to road condition reporting phrases
- Promoted exchange of traveler information with neighboring states
- Provided the opportunity to share ITS experiences as well as operation and maintenance experiences
- Promoted data sharing between state agencies and public safety
- Developed a corridor wide tangible website to provide travelers with road conditions along the entire corridor



Transportation Pooled Fund Study



Member States

Idaho Transportation Department
Minnesota DOT
Montana DOT
North Dakota DOT
South Dakota DOT
Washington State DOT
Wyoming DOT
Wisconsin DOT

Program Website

www.nwpassage.info

Corridor Wide Traveler Information Website

www.i90i94travelinfo.com

History

Interstates 90 and 94 between Wisconsin and Washington function as major corridors for commercial and recreational travel. Extreme winter weather conditions, prevalent in the northern states within this corridor, pose significant operational and travel-related challenges. Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming are predominantly rural and face similar transportation issues related to traffic management, traveler information, and commercial vehicle operations.

Recognizing the value of coordinated, cross-border collaboration for ITS deployment to address these issues, Minnesota initiated a meeting in 2002 with representatives from each of the states within the corridor. The group established itself as a Transportation Pooled Fund in 2003 through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The North/West Passage Corridor has successfully implemented three work plans containing 13 projects. Currently the group is moving forward with the fourth work plan. Projects include enhancing the traveler information website (www.i90i94travelinfo.com), researching call forwarding between states, exploring regional permitting for the corridor as well as detailing center to center communications between states.

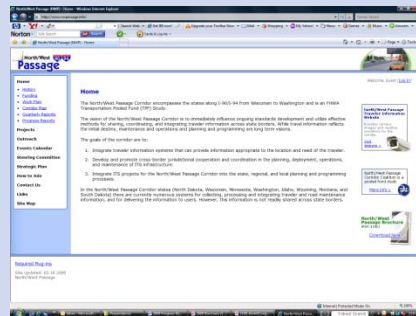
Vision

The vision of the North/West Passage Corridor Program is to immediately influence ongoing standards development and utilize effective methods for sharing, coordinating, and integrating traveler information across state borders. While travel information reflects the initial destiny, maintenance and operations and planning and programming are long-term visions. The vision provides a framework to guide the states' future projects in the corridor.

Program Website

www.nwpassage.info

A program website was created to provide easy access to North/West Passage information and to communicate and educate users about the pooled fund study. The website contains an archive of all project meetings and reports and provides a history of the corridor.



Corridor Wide Traveler Information Website

www.i90i94travelinfo.com

The North/West Passage states developed a corridor-wide traveler information website for travelers on the I-90/I-94 Corridor from Wisconsin to Washington. The website provides users with camera images and weather conditions along the corridor to serve as a comprehensive source for traveler information. The website also identifies rest areas and provides links to each states commercial vehicle restriction information and traveler information websites as well as truck stop information.



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