



North/West Passage Transportation Pooled Fund Study

TPF-5(093)

Q3 2004 Status Report

July – September 30, 2004

Project Description

The North/West Passage Transportation Pooled Fund (TPF) Study is a multi-state cooperative program for the coordination, development, and deployment of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) projects along the I-90 & I-94 corridor. The states of Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin have been in contact since February 25, 2002 discussing the development of a North/West Passage transportation coalition. North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin contributed funding for the development of a Pooled Fund Study. Other I-90 and I-94 states continue to express interest in the North/West Passage Corridor, but do not have funding secured to participate at this time. The Federal Highway Administration serves as a monitoring body, providing strategic, and technical input. The Steering Committee consisting of members from the eight states meet monthly or as necessary to provide overall program direction.

Status/Progress This Quarter and Next Steps

Obligation of Funds

Wisconsin is working on obligating funds to the North/West Passage TPF Study.

Next Step: Wisconsin to obligate funds to the North/West Passage TPF Study.

Informational Letter

Next Step: Develop a follow up informational letter in the next six months after the North/West Passage website is launched to update FHWA Officials and other Multi-state Coalitions on the status and progress of the North/West Passage Corridor.

Informational Presentations

During the July 18-21, 2004 WASHTO Annual Meeting, Phil DeCabooter from WisDOT gave a presentation on the status of the North/West Passage TPF Study. Mark Nelson from MnDOT along with DeCabooter presented an overview of the North/West Passage TPF Study during the August 22-25, 2004 National Rural ITS Conference in Duluth, Minnesota.

Contract Support

URS has executed a contract with Castle Rock Consultations on August 16, 2004.

Phase I Projects

The North/West Passage TPF Study is currently pursuing seven projects selected and approved in December 2003 by the membership as outlined in the Work Plan - Phase I Projects. The purpose of the

Phase I Projects is to implement and evaluate integrated traveler information systems and coordinate maintenance operations across state borders. A status of Phase I projects from July through September 30, 2004 is included below.

- **Project 1.1 – Integrate North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Minnesota Reporting Systems**

A kick-off meeting has not been scheduled. A meeting will be held after the vendor contracts are executed.

August 19, 2004 Work Team Meeting

- Meridian has built the ingest system that allows Minnesota data to feed into North and South Dakota. When the system is turned on, travelers in North and South Dakota will have now have Minnesota as an option for which state they would like for traveler information.
- The Event Report Messaging still exists with the new system and eventually could be changed to the Full Event Update.
- Castle Rock in the process of developing a draft Interface Control Document that will address software interfaces between states.

- **Project 1.2 - Deploy Limited CARS Study Application for Wisconsin**

No meetings were held during the second quarter of 2004 for Project 1.2.

- **Project 1.5 – Preliminary Design for DMS Deployment on I-94 Eastbound in North Dakota and Project 1.8 – Develop a Communication Plan for the Anti-Icing System to be Installed on the I-94 Bridges at Red River**

Project 1.5 and 1.8 coordinated efforts.

September 15, 2004 Project Team Meeting

- The group reviewed a draft project-level architecture for Project 1.5 and 1.8 and will offer comments prior to the next meeting.
- The group agreed on the following milestones and schedule for completing Project 1.5 and 1.8.

Milestone	Projected Completion Date
DMS Site Study	August 2004
Project-Level Architecture and Concept of Operations	October 29, 2004
Communication Design Options	December 31, 2004
MOU	February 2005
DMS and Anti-Icing Layout and Design	February 2005

- North Dakota will schedule an internal meeting in October to review the Red River Bridge RFP and discuss the communication of the anti-icing system.

August 17, 2004 Project Team Meeting

- A site survey was conducted that included measuring viewing distances for the location of the DMS along I-94 in North Dakota. No concerns were noted.
- Communication options were discussed. The group agreed fiber would be used for both the planned DMS and the bridge deck anti-icing system. (Project 1.5 and Project 1.8.)
- The group concluded that the communication architecture for the DMS and anti-icing system needs to be developed and a description of the communication of the anti-icing system for inclusion in the Red River Bridge Deck Anti-Icing System RFP.

July 29, 2004 Project Team Meeting

- NDSU staff gave a presentation of their VMS Composer. The VMS Composer is software currently in development. It will be used to support the process of generating VMS messages while following state standards.
- The group discussed the scope of Project 1.5 and began answering questions for deploying a DMS on I-94 Eastbound in North Dakota.
 - The location of the sign will be by 5th Street on the south side of I-94 in North Dakota
 - The DMS sign will be a full matrix permanent side mounted sign on the side of the road
 - North Dakota and Minnesota will both be able to operate the sign. An MOU will be developed to formalize the agreement.
- Communication options were discussed, however further research was needed to identify what is currently in place along I-94 in North Dakota and Wisconsin
- The group agreed that Project 1.8 (Communication for the Red River Bridge Anti-Icing) should be considered with the development of communications for the DMS and included in the RFP for the Red River Bridge Project.

July 8, 2004 Project Kickoff Meeting

- The scope of Project 1.5 was discussed. North Dakota will be using Amber Alert Grant funds to fund the deployment of the DMS on eastbound I-94. Communication options between North Dakota and Minnesota were noted.
 - It was decided at the conclusion of the meeting to schedule a face-to-face meeting in Fargo to continue discussion of communication options between the states, cost estimates, and developing a memorandum of understanding.
- **Project 1.6 – Preliminary Design for DMS Deployment at the I-94 Split at Tomah, Wisconsin**

August 23, 2004 Project Team Meeting

The purpose of this meeting was to follow up on the discussion from the last Project 1.6 meeting held on Monday, August 16 to further discuss the focus of the Concept of Transportation Operations document and how it fits into the TOP project in Wisconsin. After considerable discussion, the group agreed that focus of the Concept of Transportation Operations document would focus on the Tomah split and address scenarios related to this area of interest. The group also agreed that the Wisconsin TOP project team would monitor the development of the Concept of Operations document to insure that the work complimented the development of the corridor operations template being developed by the TOP project.

August 16, 2004 Project Team Meeting

Key individuals from Wisconsin involved in other planning efforts participated in this meeting. The meeting focused on addressing how different types of traffic operations and planning documents in Wisconsin should relate to each other. Specifically, how this concept of operations template/document for the North/West Passage relates to the Statewide Traffic Operations Plan and other related documents. The group agreed that the project would focus on developing a Concept of Transportation Operations for the I-90/94 corridor and adjacent areas in Southwest Wisconsin. The next step is to identify a suggested common vocabulary and definitions that could be used in various operations and planning documents in Wisconsin.

August 4, 2004 Project Team Meeting

The group continued discussion of the revised project level Concept of Operations. The group suggested using I-90/I-94 as the main corridor network but address stretching this out to other areas. Additional information is needed on coordinating efforts with Wisconsin's Statewide Traffic Operations Plan. It was suggested to hold a meeting with those individuals that are involved with the other traffic operations planning efforts.

▪ **Project 1.7 – Develop a North/West Passage Program Website**

August 2004

- The North/West Passage Website was launched on August 20, 2004 (<http://www.nwpassage.info>). The site contains information on past or future meetings, corridor history, calendar of events, and much more. Meeting minutes and agendas are available to all who visit this website.
- By logging into the website, members have access to meeting agendas and minutes along with all meeting handouts.

- **Project 1.9 – Develop a Lessons Learned Document Comparing Requirements for CARS Deployment in Wisconsin to Meridian's System Deployment in North Dakota**
A kick-off meeting has not been scheduled. Project work will occur simultaneously with other Phase I projects.

Next Step: Continue work on Project Work Teams.

Completed or Tabled Phase I Projects

- **Project 1.3 – Develop Automated Road Condition Reporting System**
Project 1.3 was tabled in July 2003, due to the separate and ongoing Maintenance Decisions Support System (MDSS) project. This project will be revisited when Phase II projects are discussed.
- **Project 1.4 – Provide Integrated Communications Capabilities for North Dakota DMS**
Project 1.4 was tabled in July 2003. North Dakota received grant money to upgrade their signs to National Transportation Communications for ITS Protocol (NTCIP) compliance. This project was completed by North Dakota DOT.

Upcoming Meetings

- Steering Committee October 1 and October 28, 2004
- Project 1.1 Work Team August 19 and October 13, 2004
- Project 1.2 Work Team November 10 and December 15, 2004
- Project 1.6 Work Team October 12, 2004

Financial Summary

Current member commitments for Phase I Projects total \$100,000.

- North Dakota \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Minnesota \$50,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Wisconsin \$25,000 (80/20 I-90/94 Earmark Dollars)

Current funds obligated equal \$25,000. Additional obligation of \$25,000 is expected during the next quarter.

- North Dakota \$25,000
- Minnesota \$50,000

Project Manger

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