



**North/West Passage  
Transportation Pooled Fund Study  
TPF-5(093)  
Q1 2006 Status Report  
January 1 – March 31, 2006**

**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) along the I-90 and 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 multi-state transportation program, which was formally established as a TPF Study in 2003. North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin contributed funding for the development of a Phase 1 work plan. Additional contributions have been made by the states of Idaho, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington and Wyoming for the development of a Phase 2 work plan. Wisconsin and Montana 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. Minnesota serves as the Program Administrator and a Steering Committee consists of one representative from each of the states that have financially contributed to the effort. The Steering Committee meets monthly or as necessary to provide overall program direction.

**Status/Progress This Quarter and Next Steps**

**Phase 1 Work Plan Projects**

The North/West Passage TPF Study pursued eight projects selected and approved in December 2003 by the membership as outlined in the Work Plan – Phase 1 projects. The purpose of the Phase 1 projects was to implement and evaluate integrated traveler information systems and coordinate maintenance operations across state borders. All of the Phase 1 projects are now complete and individual reports for each are available online at [www.nwpassage.info](http://www.nwpassage.info). A full Phase 1 interim report has also been published and will be available online in the coming weeks.

**Phase 2 Work Plan Projects**

The Steering Committee will develop a full work plan identifying projects to pursue for Phase 2 in early 2006. However, the first project identified for Phase 2 will develop an ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan for the North/West Passage. The Steering Committee elected to wait until the strategic plan is further developed before identifying a more complete list of projects for Phase 2.

- **Project 2.1 – ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan**

- The contract for this project was awarded to the SEH Team (SEH, PB Farradyne and TranSmart Technologies) and work began in mid-October. The plan will focus on center-to-center information sharing opportunities, includes a high-level architecture for the corridor, develop an inventory of communication coverage, and identify a coordinated deployment and operational

concept for traveler information systems across state borders. The plan will also consider current ITS industry interests such as the Clarus initiative and 511.

This quarter, stakeholder interviews with each of the state representatives were conducted and the results were used as the basis of the plan's Technology Inventory chapter, a draft of which has also been completed. The Issues, Problems and Needs chapter and Goals, Objectives and Vision chapter were also drafted and submitted. Three meetings have been held to review these materials and related issues: Technical Meeting 1 (1/20/06), Strategic Plan Meeting 2 (2/23/06) and Strategic Plan Meeting 3 (3/16/06).

<b>Task</b>	<b>Estimated Start</b>	<b>Estimated Finish</b>
1. Project Management, Administration and Coordination	Mon 10/17/05	Thu 11/30/06
2. Complete Technology Inventory	Mon 11/14/05	Thu 2/16/06
3. Identify Issues, Problems and Needs	Mon 1/16/06	Fri 3/10/06
4. Establish Goals, Objectives and Vision	Mon 1/16/06	Fri 3/10/06
5. Concepts, Potential Solutions and Desired Functions	Mon 2/13/06	Fri 4/21/06
6. Assess Technology	Mon 3/20/06	Mon 5/22/06
7. Develop Corridor Architecture	Mon 5/22/06	Wed 9/13/06
8. Identify Traveler Information and 511 System Integration	Mon 5/22/06	Tue 8/1/06
9. Identify Communication Alternatives	Mon 5/22/06	Wed 9/13/06
10. Develop Concept of Operations and Deployment Strategy	Mon 6/19/06	Thu 9/21/06
11. Prepare Strategic Plan	Mon 9/18/06	Mon 11/20/06

Next quarter, a stakeholder workshop will be held in Minneapolis (4/19-20) to define and prioritize potential solutions for the North/West Passage Corridor. The workshop will primarily include the state representatives, with other stakeholders attending as travel and budgets allow. The workshop agenda will include an administrative review, review of the chapters drafted to-date, and working sessions to identify potential solutions, desired functions and information flows. The workshop proceedings will be presented in the Concepts, Potential Solutions and Desired Functions chapter of the strategic plan. The content of the workshop will also be used to develop the Technology Assessment and Corridor Architecture chapters of the plan during the next quarter.

Finally, there will be two presentations on North/West Passage during the ITS America Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, 5/7-9. Session 37 will present early work among Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota to share information for 511, in addition to plans for expanding information sharing for 511 throughout other states in the corridor. Session 45 will highlight broader based information sharing among reporting systems for traveler information, as well as operational purposes in the corridor.

### **Phase 1 Work Plan Financial Summary**

Member commitments for Phase 1 Projects totaled \$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)

### **Phase 2 Work Plan Financial Summary**

Six of the eight states in the corridor have committed \$400,000 in total for a Phase 2 Work Plan. Following is a summary of financial contributions by members through March 31, 2006. Because funding is comprised of various state and federal sources, FMIS will track SP&R dollars and Mn/DOT will administer and track other state and federal dollars through partnership agreements with the corresponding states.

- Idaho \$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)
- Minnesota \$100,000 (SP&R Dollars-Not Yet Obligated)
- Montana-Not Yet Committed
- North Dakota \$50,000 (SP&R Dollars-Partially Obligated)
- South Dakota \$50,000 (SP&R Dollars-Not Yet Obligated)
- Washington \$50,000 (State Dollars)
- Wisconsin-\$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)
- Wyoming \$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)

### **Project Manager**

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***Report by: Ginny Crowson, SEH***

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