



North/West Passage
Transportation Pooled Fund Study
TPF-5(093)
Q2 2007 Status Report
April 1 – June 30, 2007

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 began meeting in February 2002 to discuss the development of a North/West Passage multi-state transportation program. The states formally established as a TPF Study through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in 2003. FHWA 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.

North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin contributed funding for the execution of a Phase 1 work plan. The Phase 1 work plan included eight projects, the purpose of which was to implement and evaluate integrated traveler information systems and coordinate maintenance operations across state borders. Individual reports for the projects completed under the Phase 1 work plan are available online at www.nwpassage.info. A full Phase 1 summary report is also available online.

Additional contributions have since been made by all of the states for the execution of a Phase 2 work plan, which focused on developing a strategic plan for the corridor. Focusing on traveler information and maintenance operations, the plan presents an inventory of ITS deployments in the corridor; provides a high-level architecture; analyzes targeted concepts/solutions; and, proposes a coordinated deployment and operational concept for traveler information systems and maintenance operations across state borders. The Steering Committee elected to wait until the strategic plan is further developed before identifying a more complete list of projects for further implementation in the corridor.

The balance of funds contributed during the Phase 2 solicitation will next be applied to a Phase 3 work plan, which is currently being developed by the Steering Committee.

Status/Progress This Quarter and Next Steps

- **Project 2.1 – ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan**
The strategic plan presents an inventory of ITS deployments in the corridor; provides a high-level architecture; analyze targeted concepts/solutions; and, proposes a coordinated deployment and operational concept for traveler information systems and maintenance operations across state borders. The plan also considers current ITS industry interests such as the Clarus initiative and 511. The contract for this project was awarded to the SEH Team (SEH, Telvent Traffic North America, Inc. [formerly PB Farradyne], TranSmart Technologies and Athey Creek Consultants).

The executive summary and introduction were finalized in April and the full plan was submitted in May to Mn/DOT's Research Services Section for final review. Formatting revisions were received from Research Services in early June and SEH is completing them. The report will be

resubmitted to Research Services for final e-publication and SEH will print hard copies for distribution to each of the North/West Passage member states by mid-July.

- Phase 3 Work Plan Finalized

The Phase 3 Work Plan was finalized in late April and is available online at: <http://www.nwpassage.info/about/workplan.php>. Building on several projects recommended in the ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan for North/West Passage, the Phase III Work Plan presents a series of projects targeted for completion in 2007-2008. The projects continue to develop, expand implementation and evaluate integrated traveler information systems. They also continue the understanding and development of coordinated maintenance operations across state borders.

- RFP Released

To execute project identified in the Phase 3 Work Plan, Mn/DOT issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on June 18. Proposals are due by July 18 and will be evaluated on July 25 by the following Mn/DOT staff and members of the North/West Passage Steering Committee:

- Bill Legg, ITS Program Manager, Washington DOT
- Bob Koeberlein, ITS Coordinator, Idaho DOT
- Brandi Hamilton, Traveler Information Coordinator, Montana DOT
- Bruce Hunt, [need title], FHWA-South Dakota
- Ginny Crowson, ITS Program Manager, Minnesota DOT
- Ray Starr, Assistant State Traffic Engineer, Minnesota DOT
- Ashley Hartfiel, Contract Administrator, Minnesota DOT

- North/West Passage Selected for Clarus Regional Demonstration

In April, Dave Huft from South Dakota DOT was notified that the North/West Passage proposal was one of three selected for the Clarus regional demonstration. The cooperative agreement between FHWA and South Dakota DOT was executed on May 1 and will end on January 31, 2008. A corresponding contract has also been executed between South Dakota DOT and Meridian Environmental. A third contract, between Mn/DOT and the University of North Dakota will also be executed to facilitate metadata development and local matching funds from the North/West Passage budget.

Osborne and Huft attended a project planning meeting with the FHWA Road Weather Management Program staff on May 17 in Washington, DC. The final project plan was due to the FHWA by the beginning of June and will be distributed to the North/West Passage states upon final approval by FHWA. Finally, Clarus ESS training for the North/West Passage states will occur sometime after July 4 with MixonHill in Kansas City.

- Steering Committee Meeting on May 23

A Steering Committee meeting was held on May 23. The primary focus of this meeting was review of the pending RFP for the Phase 3 Work Plan and an update on Clarus. Also noted during the meeting was the National Rural ITS Conference (NRITSC). Several North/West Passage state reps will be attending the conference; if there enough, an October Steering Committee could be arranged during the event.

Status/Progress Anticipated Next Quarter

- Project 2.1 – ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan

The final plan will be submitted to Mn/DOT's Research Service Section for formal acceptance and e-publication while hard copies of the final plan will be distributed to the North/West Passage states by mid-July. This will also conclude the work contracted to the SEH Team.

- Clarus Regional Demonstration
Mn/DOT will execute a contract with the University of North Dakota to develop ESS metadata. The North/West Passage reps will also complete Clarus ESS training on July 10-11 in Kansas City.
- Steering Committee Meeting on July 25
The Steering Committee will meet on the afternoon of July 25 to discuss results of the RFP, status of the Clarus regional demonstration, Peer-to-Peer funding received, and the fall meeting schedule.
- RFP Evaluation on July 25
Mn/DOT staff and select North/West Passage Steering Committee members will meet on the morning of July 25 to evaluate proposals received in response to the RFP issued for the Phase 3 Work Plan projects. As the administrative state for the pooled fund, Mn/DOT will lead the proposal evaluation and contracting process. A contract is expected to be executed by late August.

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 and Phase 3 Work Plan Financial Summary

The eight states in the corridor committed \$400,000 through the solicitation associated with the Phase 2 Work Plan. Following is a summary of financial contributions by members through March 31, 2007. 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)
- Montana \$25,000 (Source TBD)
- North Dakota \$25,000 (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)

Of the \$400,000 in contributions, \$188,149 has been committed to-date to the following expenses:

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| • Project 2.1 – ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan | \$173,379 |
| • Travel | \$10,500 |
| • Web Site Maintenance | \$4,270 |

The balance of \$211,851, in addition to \$15,000 in Peer-To-Peer funding for Project 3.3, has been tentatively budgeted as follows in accordance with the Phase 3 Work Plan.

Phase III Work Plan Projects	Cost Estimate
Traveler Information	
3.1. Corridor-Wide Consistent Major Event Descriptions	\$ 45,000
3.2. Clarus Regional Demonstration Concept of Operations	\$ 37,500
3.3. CAD to Reporting System Integration - Workshop	\$ 40,000
3.4. North/West Passage Traveler Information Web Site	\$ 30,000
Operations and Maintenance	
3.5. Cross Border O&M Collaboration - Workshop	\$ 40,000
Program Management	
3.6. Administrative Support	\$ 25,000
3.7. Pooled Fund Annual Meeting - State Rep Travel	\$ 8,000
Total	\$ 225,500

Project Manager (Program Administrator)

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