



North/West Passage
Transportation Pooled Fund Study
TPF-5(093)
Q2 2007 Status Report
July 1 – September 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 has been applied to a Phase 3 work plan. The Phase 3 work plan includes five projects that focus on continuing to develop, expand implementation, and evaluate integrated traveler information systems. The projects also continue the understanding and development of coordinated maintenance operations across state borders.

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 report was published in late July and is available online at: <http://www.nwpassage.info/projects/phase2/>. This concludes all remaining tasks associated with this project, and all terms of the contract with SEH have been fulfilled.
- **Program Support Contract Executed**

To support program administration and execute projects identified in the Phase 3 Work Plan, Mn/DOT issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on June 18. Proposals were received on July 18 and evaluated on July 25 by the following Mn/DOT staff and members of the North/West Passage Steering Committee:

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

A team lead by Athey Creek Consultants was selected for negotiations and a contract was fully executed with them on September 14. Other members of the Athey Creek Consultant Team include McFarland Management, CJ Petersen and Associates, and North Dakota State University-Advanced Transportation Analysis Center.

- Phase 3 Work Plan Projects Initiated

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. The five projects to be completed under the Phase 3 Work Plan were initiated this quarter and the next several bullets outline progress associated with each.

- Project 3.1: Corridor-Wide Consistent Major Event Descriptions

A draft of the first deliverable, which as intended to identify the event types that will be addressed with this project, was presented during the September 26 Steering Committee meeting. The committee agreed that the project should focus on four event types:

1. Weather conditions (i.e., road surface, precipitation, etc.)
2. Vehicle restrictions
3. Road work
4. Incidents

The first event type will be developed and then used as a model for developing the others. It was also noted during the meeting that the project documents should clarify what the states may need to do individually to their various reporting systems to accommodate the results of this project. A second draft of the event types document will be distributed for final comment and discussion at a meeting scheduled for October 8 during NRITSC.

- Project 3.2: Clarus Regional Demonstration Concept of Operations

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 been executed between South Dakota DOT and Meridian Environmental. A third contract, between Mn/DOT and the University of North Dakota was also executed in late July to facilitate metadata development and contribute local matching funds from the North/West Passage program budget.

The North/West Passage reps completed Clarus ESS training on July 10-11 in Kansas City. An application for the Connection Incentive Program (CIP) is being prepared by Dave Huft and will be submitted in early October. An annotated outline for the Concept of Operations document was received from FHWA and work is underway to gather information specified in the outline. In particular, stakeholder meetings have been held in seven of the eight states to gather input on how Clarus might be used. The eighth stakeholder meeting will be completed on October 2 in Minnesota. Based on the stakeholder input, a series of online surveys are being prepared to gather further input from broader stakeholder groups. Metadata collection is also underway in each of the states. Finally, all of the states attended the ICC meetings on September 20-21 in Kansas City. FHWA emphasized the final deadline for submission of the draft Concepts of Operation – December 15.

- Project 3.3: CAD to Reporting System Integration – Workshop
A draft agenda and guidelines for attendees have been prepared, and a target date for the workshop – March 12 – was selected. The agenda and guidelines were discussed during the September 26 Steering Committee meeting. The material will be revised based on feedback from the group and then distributed in early October to the states with the task of identifying participants and issuing invitations.
- Project 3.4: North/West Passage Traveler Information Web Site
A working group of Steering Committee members has been established for this project – Bill Legg-Washington, Brandi Hamilton-Montana, Ed Ryen-North Dakota, Ginny Crowson-Minnesota and the Athey Creek Consultant team. The working group is currently reviewing the preliminary design document that was prepared during the strategic planning process, and they are scheduled to discuss any changes to the design on October 1.
- Project 3.5: Cross Border O&M Collaboration – Workshop
This project isn't schedule to begin in earnest for a few months yet. However, in the past quarter, an application was submitted to the FHWA Peer-to-Peer program requesting funds for the workshop. Bruce Hunt, FHWA-South Dakota, coordinated the request and received confirmation in July that we will receive \$15,000 for support state participation in the workshop.
- Pooled Fund Annual Meeting
A tentative agenda, location (Seattle or Olympia, Washington) and target date (March 11) have been set for the North/West Passage annual meeting. The agenda will be further revised in the coming months as the date and logistics for the meeting are finalized. It is also important to note that the annual meeting is being planned in conjunction with Project 3.3: CAD to Reporting System Integration – Workshop.
- Steering Committee Meeting on July 25
A Steering Committee meeting was held on July 25. The primary focus of this meeting was to receive approval of contractor selection for execution of the Phase 3 Work Plan and provide an update on Project 3.2: Clarus Regional Demonstration Concept of Operations. The issue of future funding commitments to the pooled fund also arose at this meeting. Wisconsin has made their 2008 pooled fund participation plans and would like to contribute to the North/West Passage. CTC and Associates, currently supporting the administrative liaison role served by Mn/DOT's Research Services Section, agreed to investigate how the solicitation process can be initiated again. Meeting material and minutes are available online at:
<http://www.nwpassage.info/meetings.php?cat=sc&year=2007>.

- Steering Committee Meeting on August 29
A Steering Committee meeting was held on August 29 and the primary focus of the meeting was to introduce Athey Creek Consultants and discuss their schedule for completing Phase 3 projects, and to provide an update on Project 3.2: Clarus Regional Demonstration Concept of Operations. The question of 2008 funding solicitation was also clarified at this meeting. The termination date for the pooled fund was simply extended through the next year, and the states were asked to begin discussing funding commitments with their management for the coming year. Meeting material and minutes are available online at:
<http://www.nwpassage.info/meetings.php?cat=sc&year=2007>.
- Steering Committee Meeting on September 26
A Steering Committee meeting was held on September 26. The primary focus of this meeting was to initiate the Phase 3 projects. Meeting material and minutes will be available online after they have been approved at the October 24 meeting.

Status/Progress Anticipated Next Quarter

- NRITSC Meeting on October 8
Several state representatives will be attending the National Rural ITS Conference in Travers City, Michigan, so it was decided to hold an interim status update with the group. Teleconference arrangements will be made for those not attending to participate by phone. The primary items to be discussed are projects 3.1 and 3.4.
- Steering Committee Meetings on October 24 and November 28
The Steering Committee is scheduled to meet in October and November to continue work on the Phase 3 projects. A December meeting date has not yet been set.
- Project 3.1: Corridor-Wide Consistent Major Event Descriptions
Each agency will be contacted to gain information on description phrases/policies they use. A document will then be developed to recommend consistent event descriptions from the information gathered. The project will develop recommended event descriptions for consistency across the corridor. Particular attention will be directed toward recommendations that are easiest to implement and require as little changes to existing systems as possible.
- Project 3.2: Clarus Regional Demonstration Concept of Operations
The eighth stakeholder meeting will be completed on October 2 in Minnesota. Based on the stakeholder input, a series of online surveys will then be prepared and issued to gather further input from broader stakeholder groups. From there, case studies for the uses of Clarus will be developed, along with a complete draft of the Concept of Operations, which is due to FHWA by mid December. Site and climate record environmental metadata will also be collected and documented by the end of October, and a draft metadata report will be prepared by the end of December.
- Project 3.3: CAD to Reporting System Integration – Workshop
State representatives will continue to identify a representative from their state to participate in the workshop. Workshop logistics will be finalized.
- Project 3.4: North/West Passage Traveler Information Web Site

A working group will meet on October 1 to review the preliminary design developed as part of the strategic planning process last year. The working group will then finalize the preliminary design by identifying functional/performance requirements, recommend a web site identity, URL and hosting solution to the Steering Committee, and begin reviewing web site layouts.

- Project 3.5: Cross Border O&M Collaboration – Workshop
A workshop date and location will be finalized by the Steering Committee.

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 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 through 2007, \$176,990 has been committed to-date to the following expenses:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| • Project 2.1 – ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan | \$162,220 ¹ |
| • Travel | \$10,500 |
| • Web Site Maintenance | \$4,270 |

The balance of \$223,010, in addition to \$15,000 in Peer-To-Peer funding for Project 3.3, has been tentatively budgeted as shown in Table 1 in accordance with the Phase 3 Work Plan.

Furthermore, an additional \$25,000 was committed to the pooled fund budget for 2008 by Wisconsin on August 27, 2007. This money has not yet been allocated.

¹ \$173,379 was originally allocated to the contract with SEH to complete the ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan. However, the contract was completed at the cost of \$162,220, which allowed \$11,159 to remain in the pooled fund budget for reallocation to Phase 3.

Table 1: Phase III Work Plan Budget

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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