



North/West Passage  
Transportation Pooled Fund Study  
TPF-5(093)  
Q1 2008 Status Report  
January 1 – March 31, 2008

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**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](http://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**

**Phase 3 Work Plan Projects**

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 progress of the five projects to be completed under the Phase 3 Work is summarized in the next several bullets.

- **Project 3.1: Corridor-Wide Consistent Major Event Descriptions**

*The intent of Project 3.1 is to develop a set of corridor-wide consistent event descriptions that can be used by each North/West Passage state to describe events, and ultimately support a very effective exchange of event descriptions to benefit the corridor-wide website and traveler information systems operated within each state. The committee agreed that the project would focus on identifying consistent event descriptions for the four event types:*

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

During this quarter a draft report was reviewed in by the Steering Committee. The group concluded that additional interaction with each North/West Passage state is needed to complete the document over the next several months. Interaction will include a detailed review of the translations phrase tables included in the draft report with each state's traveler information representative. Additional information about states' plans to make changes as a result of the report and any consequential work the pooled fund chooses to do will also be added to the report.

- Project 3.2: Clarus Regional Demonstration Concept of Operations

*Clarus is an initiative to develop and demonstrate an integrated surface transportation weather observing, forecasting and data management system, and to establish a partnership to create a Nationwide Surface Transportation Weather Observing and Forecasting System.*

During this quarter the final Concept of Operations was submitted to FHWA and is available at: <http://www.clarusinitiative.org/documents.htm>. A final report is being developed to summarize the Clarus project and identify lessons learned. Metadata on each of the states' ESS is also still underway. There have been some challenges with collecting metadata in some of the states due to ESS upgrades or new sites being added.

- Project 3.3: CAD to Reporting System Integration – Workshop

*The intent of this project is to conduct a workshop for North/West Passage members to learn the details about the challenges, issues, lessons learned, benefits and costs integrating CAD with reporting systems.*

During this quarter the workshop was held on March 12 in Tacoma, Washington in conjunction with the Pooled Fund Annual Meeting. A summary of the meeting proceedings will be prepared in the coming weeks. The summary, along with supporting reference materials will also be made available through the North/West Passage program web site ([www.nwpassage.info](http://www.nwpassage.info)).

- Project 3.4: North/West Passage Traveler Information Web Site

*Project 3.4 focuses on developing a traveler information web site for travelers on the I-90/I-94 Corridor from Wisconsin to Washington. In March 2007, a Preliminary Design Document was developed for a North/West Passage Corridor-Wide Advanced Traveler Information System (ATIS) Website. This document will be revised and used as a basis for developing the website.*

*A project team was identified to meet outside of the Steering Committee meetings to focus on the details of Project 3.4 and provide overall guidance for the project. The Project 3.4 Team consists of Bill Legg, Brandi Hamilton, Ginny Crowson, Ed Ryen, and the consultant staff.*

A draft prototype of the website was presented to the Steering Committee at the annual meeting on March 11. Several comments were received and the states were asked to complete one final

review of the information related to their state. The Steering Committee also approved the web domain address for the website: [www.I90I94travelinfo.com](http://www.I90I94travelinfo.com) and agreed to host the website on a shared server through a private company. A list of outreach efforts was also proposed for each state to complete in order to inform potential users of the website. Some additional materials were identified for the outreach effort and will be prepared in the coming weeks to be available once the site is complete.

- Project 3.5: Cross Border O&M Collaboration – Workshop  
*The intent of this project is to conduct a workshop for North/West Passage member states to further collaborate operations and maintenance activities at the borders.*

A draft agenda and guidelines for attendees have been prepared. Two attendees from each of the states have also been identified and preliminary contact with those attendees will take place in the coming weeks. The workshop will be held on May 20 and 21, 2008 in Bloomington, Minnesota.

- Pooled Fund Annual Meeting  
The pooled fund annual meeting was held on March 11 in Tacoma, Washington in conjunction with the CAD to Reporting System Integration Workshop. The focus of the annual meeting was to discuss the status of Phase 3 Projects and to determine if the group should proceed with another phase of work. The Steering Committee reviewed previously completed work and agreed that program goals and objectives are being met. They further agreed to proceed with a fourth work plan based and discussed the potential projects that could be pursued. Modifications to proposed projects and two additional projects were suggested during the meeting, so voting was postponed until the April Steering Committee meeting. Meeting material is available online at: [www.nwpassage.info/viewmeet.php?id=78](http://www.nwpassage.info/viewmeet.php?id=78).

#### Steering Committee

*The Steering Committee provides overall program direction.*

The committee held two teleconference meetings during the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter. The following bullets summarize the meeting discussions.

- Steering Committee Meeting on January 22, 2008  
A Steering Committee Meeting was held on January 22, 2008. The primary focus of this meeting was to provide an update on the Phase 3 projects. Meeting material and minutes are available online at: [www.nwpassage.info/viewmeet.php?id=76](http://www.nwpassage.info/viewmeet.php?id=76).
- Steering Committee Meeting on February 12, 2008  
A Steering Committee Meeting was held on February 12, 2008. The primary focus of this meeting was to provide an update on the Phase 3 projects. Meeting material and minutes are available online at: [www.nwpassage.info/viewmeet.php?id=77](http://www.nwpassage.info/viewmeet.php?id=77).

#### Status/Progress Anticipated Next Quarter

- Steering Committee Meetings on April 15 and May 13, 2008  
The Steering Committee is scheduled to meet in April and May to continue work on the Phase 3 projects and to vote on projects for a fourth work plan. Once the fourth work plan is complete, it

will be submitted to FHWA for approval and the states will be asked proceed with making their financial commitments to the pooled fund for the work plan.

- Project 3.1: Corridor-Wide Consistent Major Event Descriptions  
Project 3.1 will focus on incorporating comments provided by the Steering Committee at the annual meeting as well as working with each North/West Passage state to provide a detailed review of the recommended translation phrases identified in the draft report.
- Project 3.2: Clarus Regional Demonstration Concept of Operations  
ESS metadata collection will be completed and the North/West Passage states will discuss their collective or individual involvement in Phase 3 of Clarus.
- Project 3.3: CAD to Reporting System Integration – Workshop  
A workshop summary will be developed and finalized for dissemination in April 2008.
- Project 3.4: North/West Passage Traveler Information Web Site  
The traveler information website will be finalized and go live in April 2008. Each North/West Passage state will assist in outreach efforts for the website in the months following its launch.
- Project 3.5: Cross Border O&M Collaboration – Workshop  
The workshop agenda and guidelines will be distributed to attendees, and meeting logistics will be finalized. Attendees will also be contacted to collect background information prior to the workshop.

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

The following commitments were made during the Phase 1 solicitation.

- North Dakota \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Minnesota \$50,000 (SP&R Dollars), plus \$102,576 (State funds)
- Wisconsin \$25,000 (80/20 I-90/94 Earmark Dollars)

The primary expense associated with the Phase 1 solicitation was a contract with URS Corporation to provide program support and deliver projects in the Phase 1 Work Plan which is available online at: [www.nwpassage.info/about/workplan.php](http://www.nwpassage.info/about/workplan.php). The contract totaled \$202,576.

#### **Phase 2 and Phase 3 Work Plan Financial Summary**

The eight states in the corridor committed \$450,000 through a Phase 2 solicitation. Following is a summary of the financial contributions by individual members. 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 \$150,000<sup>1</sup> (SP&R Dollars)
- Montana \$25,000 (Source Unknown)
- North Dakota \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- South Dakota \$50,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Washington \$50,000 (State Dollars)

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<sup>1</sup> While updating financial records in preparation for the March 11 annual meeting, it was discovered the Minnesota had actually contributed \$150,000 in Phase 2, vs. the previously reported \$100,000.

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- Wisconsin \$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)
- Wyoming \$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)

Of the \$450,000 in contributions received through the Phase 2 solicitation, in addition to \$15,000 in Peer-To-Peer funding for Project 3.3, \$434,949 has been committed to the following expenses to-date:

**Expenses**

Contract-Short Elliott Hendrickson-Project 2.1	\$	173,379
Contract-University of North Dakota-Project 3.2	\$	37,500
Contract-Athey Creek-Program Support and Projects 3.1, 3.3-3.5	\$	179,886
Contract-NDSU-Web Site Management (March 2006-February 2008)	\$	4,270
Contract-NDSU-Web Site Management (March 2008-February 2010)	\$	4,792
Travel-2006 Annual Meeting	\$	4,827
Travel-2007 Annual Meeting	\$	5,087
Travel-2008 Annual Meeting (estimate)	\$	10,000
Travel-Project 3.5 (estimate)	\$	20,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>439,741</b>

Note: \$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 will allow an estimated \$11,159 to remain in the pooled fund budget for reallocation to Phase 3. This number is estimated until final audit is completed by Mn/DOT.

These expenses are associated with the Phase 2 and Phase 3 Work Plans. Full copies of the work plans are available online at: [www.nwpassage.info/about/workplan.php](http://www.nwpassage.info/about/workplan.php).

**Project Manager (Program Administrator)**

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