



North/West Passage
Transportation Pooled Fund Study
TPF-5(190)
Q1 2009 Status Report
January 1 – March 31, 2009

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.

A Phase 4 work plan has been approved and five projects are moving forward. Projects include enhancing the traveler information website (www.i90i94travelinfo.com), researching call forwarding between states, exploring regional permitting for the corridor as well as detailing center to center communications between states.

Status/Progress This Quarter

Phase 3 Work Plan Projects

The five projects identified in the Phase 3 Work Plan are complete. The final results of the projects are available at: <http://www.nwpassage.info/projects/>

Phase 4 Work Plan Projects

- Project 4.1: North/West Passage Travel Information Website – Phase 2 and Project 4.3 Center to Center Communications Concept of Operations

The intent of Project 4.1 is to:

- *Develop a ConOps for a second generation corridor-wide traveler information website that builds upon the currently operational website (i90i94travelinfo.com); adding the ability to acquire active event reports posted by member agencies and display active corridor events.*
- *Design and implement the second generation website based on the ConOps.*
- *Develop a Concept of Operations for event report sharing between states to guide future data exchanges among member agencies. For example, some member states may wish to exchange event reports between states in order to populate their condition reporting system with events from neighboring states.*

A draft Request for Proposal (RFP) was developed which included a scope of work.

- Project 4.2: Call Forwarding and Evaluation of Cross Border Information Requests

The goal of Project 4.2 is to offer a short-term, easily deployed solution for making corridor-wide 511 traveler information available to callers at any location along the corridor using call forwarding options among member states.

Athey Creek researched call forwarding options in each state and presented a summary of the options at the Annual Meeting.

- Project 4.4: North/West Passage Regional Permitting

The ultimate vision is that Project 4.4 will allow the North/West Passage member states to begin development on a system that one day will allow commercial vehicle carriers to obtain basic oversize/overweight permits for the entire North/West Passage Corridor at a 'one-stop-shop'.

A draft Request for Proposal (RFP) was developed which included a scope of work.

- Project 4.5: Expanded Corridor-Wide Truck Parking Facilities

The goal of Project 4.5 is to provide the information necessary for states to consider expanding short term truck parking availability in the locations where it is needed most along the I-90 and I-94 corridor from Washington to Wisconsin.

The group identified current parking facility efforts to contact and gain information prior to developing a scope of work for Project 4.5.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee provides overall program direction. The committee held three teleconference meetings during the 1st Quarter. The following bullets summarize the meeting discussions.

- Steering Committee Meeting on January 6, 2009

A Steering Committee Meeting was held on January 6, 2009. The primary focus of this meeting was to discuss the feedback from the traveler information website and update members on Phase 4 projects.

- Steering Committee Meeting on February 10, 2009

A Steering Committee Meeting was held on February 10, 2009. The primary focus of this meeting was to discuss the March Annual Meeting and receive input on the draft RFP's for Phase 4 projects.

- Steering Committee Annual Meeting on March 10 and 11, 2009
A Steering Committee Annual Meeting was held on March 10 and 11, 2009. The primary focus of this meeting was to provide update on Phase 4 projects, discuss member activities related to the North/West Passage Program, review the Strategic Plan, and plan for the coming year.
- Steering Committee Section 1201 Meeting on March 23, 2009
A Steering Committee Meeting was held on March 23, 2009. The primary focus of the meeting was to discuss a corridor response to Section 1201 of SAFETEA-LU.

Status/Progress Anticipated Next Quarter

- Steering Committee Meetings in April, May, and June.
- Project 4.1: North/West Passage Travel Information Website – Phase 2 and Project 4.3 Center to Center Communications Concept of Operations
Approve and post the Project 4.1/4.3 RFP on Mn/DOT's website.
- Project 4.2: Call Forwarding and Evaluation of Cross Border Information Requests
Develop a summary document detailing the options and suggested next steps for call forwarding in the corridor.
- Project 4.4: North/West Passage Regional Permitting
Approve and post the Project 4.4 RFP on Mn/DOT's website.
- Project 4.5: Expanded Corridor-Wide Truck Parking Facilities
Summarize nationwide truck parking facility efforts.

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. 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.

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- Idaho \$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)
- Minnesota \$150,000¹ (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)
- 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
Total Expenses	\$	439,741

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 \$164,212.57, 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.

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Submitted: April 16, 2009

¹ 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.