



North/West Passage  
Transportation Pooled Fund Study  
TPF-5(190)  
Q4 2009 Status Report  
October 1 – December 31, 2009

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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 were 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 were 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 continued 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](http://www.i90i94travelinfo.com)), researching call forwarding between states, and exploring regional permitting for the corridor as well as detailing center to center communications between states.

**Status/Progress This Quarter**

**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](http://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.*

The Open Roads/Logic Tree Team was selected through Mn/DOT's RFP process to complete Project 4.1/4.3 for the North/West Passage. A project kick-off meeting was held on November 23, 2009 to provide an overview of the project approach. Stakeholder phone surveys were conducted with each North/West Passage state to assess the current traveler information website, rate proposed features for the Phase 2 website, and identify data formats available from each state. The information gathered from the surveys was incorporated into a draft Concept of Operations that was distributed to the group in December for review.

- 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.*

A final report for this project was approved that outlined the current status of 511 access to adjacent state's information and the options each North/West Passage state has with their current systems as well as includes a set of recommendations for moving forward with implementation. The final report can be found at: <http://www.nwpassage.info/projects/phase4/proj2/>

Based on the recommendations from the Project 4.2 final report, the group agreed to move forward with developing an unsolicited proposal to the USDOT to request funding to:

- Demonstrate establishing a data exchange of critical incident and road condition information between all member states; and
- Demonstrate modifying individual 511 phone systems in each member state to allow callers to the 511 system in their current state to hear reports for adjacent states (without the need for call forwarding).

Athey Creek Consultants drafted the unsolicited proposal for review by the Steering Committee.

- 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 project kick-off meeting was held on October 29, 2009 and a project update meeting on December 3, 2010. Three regional permitting models were reviewed and it was concluded the WASHTO has the most leadership and energy focused on regionally permitting. Input was gained from the North/West Passage states on regionally permitting to complete the efforts for Task 1 and 2 for the project.

- Project 4.5: Traveler Information Dissemination to Commercial Vehicle Operators (Old Title: Expanded Corridor-Wide Truck Parking Facilities)  
*The goal of Project 4.5 is to work with North/West Passage member agencies to research and document experiences, challenges, and successes disseminating travel information to truckers, and to prepare guidelines for commercial vehicle travel information for the North/West Passage Corridor that could be used by individual member states, or considered for an eventual Phase 3 of the Corridor-wide Traveler Information Website.*

Interviews were conducted with each North/West Passage. A summary of the information gathered was broken down into 3 areas (what has worked well, what hasn't worked well, what improvements have truckers suggested) related to traveler information dissemination and presented to the Steering Committee.

#### Steering Committee

The Steering Committee provides overall program direction. The committee held two teleconference meetings during the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter. The following bullets summarize the meeting discussions.

- Steering Committee Meeting on October 20, 2009  
A Steering Committee Meeting was held on October 20, 2009. The primary focus of this meeting was to provide updates on the Work Plan 4 projects and discuss project ideas for the next work plan.
- Steering Committee Meeting on December 15, 2009  
A Steering Committee Meeting was held on December 15, 2009. The primary focus of this meeting was to provide updates on the Work Plan 4 projects highlighting Project 4.4 and continue discussing project ideas for the next work plan.

#### Status/Progress Anticipated Next Quarter

- Steering Committee Meetings in January, February, and March.
- Project 4.1: North/West Passage Travel Information Website – Phase 2 and Project 4.3 Center to Center Communications Concept of Operations  
Approve Concept of Operations document.
- Project 4.2: Call Forwarding and Evaluation of Cross Border Information Requests  
Submit a funding request to the USDOT to continue efforts initiated from the recommendations of Project 4.2.
- Project 4.4: North/West Passage Regional Permitting  
Summarize the outreach conducted for the project and identify recommendations for the corridor to consider.
- Project 4.5: Traveler Information Dissemination to Commercial Vehicle Operators  
Develop draft guidelines for the corridor for disseminating traveler information to truckers.

#### Work Plan 1 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)

**Work Plan 2 and 3 Financial Summary**

The eight states in the corridor committed \$450,000 through a 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 administered and tracked other state and federal dollars through partnership agreements with the corresponding states.

- Idaho \$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)
- Minnesota \$150,000 (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)

**Work Plan 4 Financial Summary**

The eight states in the corridor committed \$200,000 through a 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 administered and tracked other state and federal dollars through partnership agreements with the corresponding states.

- Idaho \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Minnesota \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Montana \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- North Dakota \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- South Dakota \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Washington \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Wisconsin \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Wyoming \$25,000 (Federal and State Dollars)

**Project Manager (Program Administrator)**

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