



North/West Passage
Transportation Pooled Fund Study
TPF-5(190)
Q1 2010 Status Report
January 1 – March 31, 2010

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 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 was approved and five projects moved forward. Projects include enhancing the traveler information website (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); 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 finalized the Concept of Operations for the project. The contractor cited considerable challenges associated with the 7 different data sources (Idaho and MN are essentially the same data source since they use the same standard, however five additional states are using unique formats for data exchanges and one member state has not identified the current data source). Based on the challenges faced by the contractor to ingest and integrate these different sources, there was a concern that the efforts involved in developing software to ingest and integrate the data is larger than originally estimated. Based upon this review of the existing data sources for event and incident data, the project team developed a set of recommendations for moving forward. The Steering Committee approved the changes to the original scope of the project.

- **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.

Project 4.2 is completed and can be found at: <http://www.nwpassage.info/projects/phase4/proj2/>

Based on the recommendations from the Project 4.2 final report, the group submitted 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).
- **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 summary of existing regional permitting compacts was presented to the project team and a status report of the progress made thus far with outreach to the NWP corridor and the trucking industry. The group also identified ideas for next steps for the corridor based on the information gathered. The findings to date were summarized in a draft report and distributed for review and input.

- **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.

A draft report was distributed to the group:

- Four CVO information dissemination approaches were identified and researched for each North/West Passage state. The results are summarized in the report as well as candidate North/West Passage enhancement to these dissemination approaches.
- Experiences, Challenges and Success from outreach meetings with each North/West Passage state were summarized
- Documents/news articles summarizing truckers feedback was documented
- An updated list of truck parking initiatives was distributed to the group.

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 19, 2010
A Steering Committee Meeting was held on January 19, 2010. The primary focus of this meeting was to provide a detailed update on Project 4.1/4.3 and provide a brief update on the other Work Plan 4 projects and review the Work Plan 5 process document for identifying Work Plan 5 projects.
- Steering Committee Meeting on February 17, 2010
A Steering Committee Meeting was held on February 17, 2010. The primary focus of this meeting was to provide a detailed update on Project 4.4, approve the scope changes to Project 4.1/4.3, and continue to develop Work Plan 5 Project Ideas.
- Steering Committee Annual Meeting on March 17 and 18, 2010
The Steering Committee Annual Meeting was held on March 17 and 18, 2010 in Idaho. The primary focus of this meeting was to provide detailed updates on the Work Plan 4 projects, discuss member activities/projects, plan for the upcoming year, review the strategic plan and program direction, and vote on Work Plan 5 projects.

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
Develop a Technical Document and begin integrating state data to the Phase 2 website.
- Project 4.2: Call Forwarding and Evaluation of Cross Border Information Requests
Follow up on the funding request to the USDOT to continue efforts initiated from the recommendations of Project 4.2.
- Project 4.4: North/West Passage Regional Permitting
Prepare Final Project 4.4 Report.

- Project 4.5: Traveler Information Dissemination to Commercial Vehicle Operators
Prepare Final Project 4.5 Report.

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)

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Submitted: April 12, 2010