

TRANSPORTATION POOLED FUND PROGRAM QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Lead Agency (FHWA or State DOT): Minnesota DOT _____

INSTRUCTIONS:

Project Managers and/or research project investigators should complete a quarterly progress report for each calendar quarter during which the projects are active. Please provide a project schedule status of the research activities tied to each task that is defined in the proposal; a percentage completion of each task; a concise discussion (2 or 3 sentences) of the current status, including accomplishments and problems encountered, if any. List all tasks, even if no work was done during this period.

Transportation Pooled Fund Program Project # <i>(i.e., SPR-2(XXX), SPR-3(XXX) or TPF-5(XXX))</i> TPF-5(190)		Transportation Pooled Fund Program - Report Period: <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30) <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30) <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 4 (October 1 – December 31)	
Project Title: North/West Passage Transportation Pooled Fund Study – Phase 3			
Name of Project Manager(s): Cory Johnson	Phone Number: 651.234.7062	E-Mail cory.johnson@state.mn.us	
Lead Agency Project ID:	Other Project ID (i.e., contract #): MnDOT Contract No. 91150 CFMS Contract No. B06319	Project Start Date: December 2008	
Original Project End Date: September 2012	Current Project End Date: September 2012	Number of Extensions: None	

Project schedule status:

- On schedule
 On revised schedule
 Ahead of schedule
 Behind schedule

Overall Project Statistics:

Total Project Budget	Total Cost to Date for Project	Percentage of Work Completed to Date
\$410,750.36	\$190,200.58	46%

Quarterly Project Statistics:

Total Project Expenses and Percentage This Quarter	Total Amount of Funds Expended This Quarter	Total Percentage of Time Used to Date
\$41,045.46	\$41,045.46	10%

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 included five projects that focused 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 included 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. All five work plan 4 projects were completed by September 2010.

The Phase 5 work plan was approved in 2010. Six projects were funded from the work plan. The projects include developing a cost/benefit ITS tool, share details of Wyoming's citizen reporting program and identifying enhancements, conducting a workshop to establish a set of consistent phrases to be used on DMS along the North/West Passage Corridor, developing a best practice document summarizing mobile weather and road condition measurement and reporting systems, continuing subcommittee meeting discussions from work plan 4 to explore regional permitting, and educating North/West Passage members on how to acquire, modify, maintain and integrate open source software.

Progress this Quarter (includes meetings, work plan status, contract status, significant progress, etc.):

Phase 5 Work Plan Projects

- Project 5.1 Citizen Assisted Reporting Feasibility Study
Share details of Wyoming's citizen reporting program, research citizen reporting expansion to other North/West Passage (NWP) states, and investigate social media options for reporting conditions to improve Wyoming's citizen reporting system.
 - A draft project report was presented at the May 18, 2011 Annual Meeting. The group discussed different tools to address the needs previously identified in the project. Tools discussed in detail included the use of twitter, blogs, entry tools and scenarios of how to use each tool. Details were also provided on how each tool is currently used by each NWP state. The group also reviewed potential next project ideas building off of the work completed for Project 5.1 (NWP I-90/I-94 Corridor Deployment, Wyoming Expansion, Other State Deployment)

- Project 5.2 Cost/Benefit ITS Tool Evaluation
Evaluate New York State DOT's Evaluation Model for Freeway ITS Scoping (EMFITS) and determine if it provides a valid and acceptable approach to ITS project cost/benefit determination. In addition the project will look at how the tool can be expanded to typical rural North/West Passage applications.
 - The cost/benefit tool spreadsheet was presented at the May 2011 Annual Meeting. Considerable input was received and will be incorporated into the next version of the spreadsheet.

- Project 5.3 Consistent and Coordinated Dynamic Message Sign (DMS) Use Workshop
Conduct a workshop to establish a set of consistent phrases to be used on DMS along the NWP as well as develop a plan for coordinated DMS.
 - A workshop was held in conjunction with the Steering Committee Annual Meeting in May 2011. At the workshop the group discussed all traveler information dissemination methods not just DMS for sharing information across states. It was also agreed to develop a set of guidelines for use by the NWP states and to create a web page for access to the NWP guidelines as well as other related project information (contact information, guidelines from other states, etc.)
 - A webinar was held on June 13, 2011 as a follow-up to the workshop. The webinar provided a recap of the May workshop, reviewed revised operational guidelines that focused on coordinating all traveler information tools between states, reviewed options for accessing the guidelines, and identified action steps for implementing and maintaining the guidelines. Project deliverables will be finalized in the next couple months and posted to the program website.

- Project 5.4: Use of Mobile Sensors & Maintenance Decision Support for Automated Road Condition Reporting
Develop a best practice document summarizing mobile weather and road condition measurement and reporting systems, and research approaches toward automating road condition reporting using Maintenance Decision Support Systems (MDSS) and mobile monitoring devices.
 - The Minnesota DOT (Pooled Fund Administering state) posted the RFP for the project on May 17, 2011.

- Project 5.5: NWP Regional Permitting – Phase 2
Continue subcommittee meeting discussions from Phase 1, identify opportunities to reduce confusion of regulations/requirements between jurisdictions, conduct a basic permit requirements inventory, research XML permit concepts, and work with the 5 NWP states that are not part of WASHTO to join, not join, or expand WASHTO
 - April 21, 2011 - Kick Off Meeting. The group reviewed the project scope and schedule as well as recapped the outcomes of the first phase of the project.
 - May 23, 2011 Meeting - A survey was distributed prior to the meeting on harmonization. The group reviewed the results of the survey at the meeting and agreed to areas of harmonization to focus on for the project (time of day operating requirements, day of travel operating restrictions, lighting, signage, and escort requirements).
 - June 22, 2011 Meeting – The call focused on discussing signing, escort requirements and warning lights.
 - July 25, 2011 Meeting – The purpose of the meeting was to review several requirements related to the movement of oversize/overweight loads to determine if any of the differences could be reconciled into a single set of standards.

- Project 5.6: Facilitating the Use of Open Source Software Throughout the Corridor
Educate NWP on how to acquire, modify, maintain and integrate open source software.
 - Scope of work drafted.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee provides overall program direction. The committee held three teleconference meetings during the 2nd Quarter. The following bullets summarize the meeting discussions.

- Steering Committee Meeting on April 21, 2011
The primary focus of this meeting was to gain input for the workshop for Project 5.3, discuss Work Plan 6 project ideas, and discuss the status of Work Plan 5 projects.
- Steering Committee Annual Meeting on May 17 and 18, 2011
The primary focus of this meeting was to review in detail the efforts of the Work Plan projects, review the program budget, plan of the coming year and vote/prioritize Work Plan 6 projects.
- Steering Committee Meeting on June 14, 2011
The primary focus of this meeting was to continue to discuss funding Work Plan, discuss the next steps for the traveler information website, provide a detailed update on Project 5.3, and discuss the status of Work Plan 5 projects.

Anticipated work next quarter:

Status/Progress Anticipated Next Quarter

- Steering Committee Meetings in August and September.
- Project 5.1 Citizen Assisted Reporting Feasibility Study
The next step is to incorporate comments received by the Steering Committee at the Annual Meeting in May to

complete the project report.

- Project 5.2 Cost/Benefit ITS Tool Evaluation
Webinars will be schedule to provide the opportunity for states to provide additional input to the cost/benefit spreadsheet.
- Project 5.3 Consistent and Coordinated Dynamic Message Sign (DMS) Use Workshop
A webinar will be scheduled in September or October 2011 to discuss the operational guidelines prior to the winter season.
- Project 5.4: Use of Mobile Sensors & Maintenance Decision Support for Automated Road Condition Reporting
Execute a contract with the selected contractor.
- Project 5.5: NWP Regional Permitting – Phase 2
Continue monthly conference calls.
- Project 5.6: Facilitating the Use of Open Source Software Throughout the Corridor
A webinar or workshop will be conducted in 2011 if Wyoming DOT transitions to deploying IRIS (Minnesota's open source control software). Wyoming DOT would be able share firsthand the benefits and drawbacks of implementing open source software. The webinar will also include the open source software mobile apps for checking traveler information that Washington DOT has developed.

Significant Results:

N/A

Circumstance affecting project or budget. (Please describe any challenges encountered or anticipated that might affect the completion of the project within the time, scope and fiscal constraints set forth in the agreement, along with recommended solutions to those problems).

N/A

Potential Implementation:

N/A