



North/West Passage

Transportation Pooled Fund TPF-5(093)

Cross Border Operations and Maintenance Collaboration Workshop

FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE CALL

October 7, 2008; 10:00am to Noon (Central Time)

Call in number: (712) 432-1601

Passcode: 116748

DISCUSSION NOTES

On May 20 and 21, 2008 North/West Passage states participated in a workshop in Minneapolis, Minnesota to discuss Operations and Maintenance (O&M) activities across borders. At the request of the workshop participants, a follow-up conference call was planned and conducted on October 7, 2008. The purpose of this call was to obtain a status from each state regarding progress made toward the next steps identified during the workshop and to continue sharing experiences and ideas to improve O&M collaboration at the NWP state borders.

Attached to these notes is the agenda used during the call, the next steps previously identified, state action plans from Idaho and Montana, and a list of call participants. Wyoming and South Dakota were not represented on the call.

The following are highlights of the discussion.

North/West Passage Operations and Maintenance Vision:

At the May 20 and 21, 2008 workshop the following vision was developed. The group reviewed the vision during the call.

North/West Passage operations and maintenance activities will contribute to:

- Safe travel conditions throughout the corridor for people and goods
- Sharing information through center to center communications
- Providing accurate, timely, consistent traveler information
 - o Updated as conditions change
- Sharing of resources to mutually aid neighboring states
- Timely delivering of goods and services

State Action Plans:

During the May workshop, each state agreed to prepare action plans to begin implementing collaboration suggestions identified at the workshop. These action plans will identify specific activities and those responsible..

- Idaho's action plan has been developed and is being used to guide activities (see page 6 of these notes).
- Montana recently completed their action plan and it was provided to the group prior to the call (see page 7 of these notes).
- Other states are working on their action plans and will prepare in near future.

Regional Coordination Meetings:

- Tri-state group met in April 2008 (once per year) – WA, ID, MT
 - MT wants to initiate a similar meeting with WY, ND, SD.
- Upcoming meeting with ND, SD, and MN to plan for upcoming winter. Still needs a date, but late October or early November was mentioned as possibilities.
- WA and ID met to discuss the addition of ITS device deployments, coordination of 511 systems, joint TMC development, snow plowing operations, and future fiber optic communications. Both agree a second meeting is required in the near future to continue meaningful discussions.
- Possible meeting between MN, ND, and IA.

MOUs to Institutionalize Cross Border Collaboration:

- General sense of the group was that the MOUs need to be specific to a certain collaboration activity, rather than a general “mutual aid” declaration.
- WA stated that there were advantages to continuing to work informally and an MOU with Idaho was not necessary, but would be considered for certain circumstances.
- Idaho is working on two MOUs with MT for ITS device deployment and operations on Lost Trail Pass (executed) and Lolo Pass.
- MT would like to start discussing with Idaho an MOU for operations on I-90 at Lookout Pass.
- Others discussed the possibility of MOUs with neighboring states and said they would look to Idaho and others who have successfully implemented MOUs for good examples and assistance.

Expansion of NWP Traveler Information Web Page (<http://i90i94travelinfo.com/>):

- Expansion of NWP Web Page planned for this coming year could include an alert system.
- Each state would need to provide a pre-defined set of events or incidents that would constitute an “alert”
 - Need to discuss sharing of info through SafetravelUSA.com
 - Need to discuss sharing of info with CARS states

Other Pertinent Discussions:

- ID and WA both agree that further progress on the new planned interchanges at the I-90 border are important to finalize collaboration plans.
- States of WY, WA, and MT are using Idaho’s 511 Alert System that, based on subscriber’s profile, can alert individuals to important happenings in Idaho such as road closures, etc. MT noted that they are looking into a similar feature in their future 511 system.
- MT is investigating new DMS on I-90 at Lookout Pass (Idaho border).
- ND has updated its emergency call list. Needs more work to identify who, when and why to call.
- ND stated that they need to work on better communications internal to their state.

- ND is planning to establish new meetings with neighboring states to discuss MOUs and Action Plans. Previous approach has been informal.
- MN has been working on their MDSS and AVL project. They have their RWIS data in Clarus.

State Action Plans:

Several states acknowledged that they are still working on their action plans. Idaho's and Montana's plans are attached to these notes. Once other states have completed their plans, please share them with the entire group so everyone can benefit from knowing what activities will be conducted to improve O&M collaboration at your state borders.

A Second Workshop in 1 Year:

The group continues to find these discussions useful and would support a second workshop of the NWP states in 1 year. However, current travel budgets may require that the meeting be a conference call instead.



North/West Passage

Transportation Pooled Fund TPF-5(093)

Cross Border Operations and Maintenance Collaboration Workshop

FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE CALL

October 7, 2008; 10:00am to Noon (Central Time)

Call in number: (712) 432-1601

Passcode: 116748

AGENDA

<u>Central Time</u>	<u>Discussion Topics</u>
10:00a	Welcome and Introductions
10:10	Review/Comments on O&M Workshop Proceedings
10:20	Review Potential Activities (see attached): <ul style="list-style-type: none">- "What Can Be Done Immediately"- "Next Steps"
10:30	Discuss Progress/Accomplishments <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Report from each State<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Activitieso Action plans (see Idaho plan example attached)
11:20	Status of Coordination Meetings Planned or Conducted
11:30	Status of Development of an MOU to Enhance Collaboration/Coordination
11:45	Wrap-up and Actions
12:00pm	Adjourn

May 10 and 21, 2008 North/West Passage Operation and Maintenance Collaboration Workshop – Next Steps

What Can Be Done Immediately

The group suggested the following specific activities that can be started now to move forward with coordinating operations and maintenance activities.

- Automated sharing of 511 system information (center to center or system to system)
- Conduct additional multi-state working groups
 - Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois have met to discuss traffic management issues
 - Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota meet to discuss winter maintenance and RWIS
 - Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota are working together on I-29
- Identify procedures for improved cross border communications
- Build on North/West Passage Traveler Information Website
 - Dissemination of key information
 - Contacts, phone numbers, resources
 - Add North/South major routes
- Develop a Draft MOU to institutionalize collaboration
 - Develop a template that could be modified by each state
 - Prepare a mutual aid declaration
- Prepare and use consistent DMS message sets
- Determine email addresses/contacts for road closure notification
- Identify area of influence for certain conditions
- Coordinate with emergency management agencies
- Coordinate new ITS installations (DMS, RWIS)
- Update ITS Device inventory conducted with North/West Passage Strategic Plan
- Prepare policies for sharing information
- North/West Passage corridor links to state's 511 system
- Involve other coalitions
- Provide an active role for FHWA

Next Steps

At the conclusion of the workshop the group discussed the logical next steps to address the list of activities that could be accomplished immediately (identified in previous section). One of the questions expressed was: Who was going to be responsible from each state to implement the findings from this workshop?

Four key next steps were identified by the group:

1. **Prepare state action plans** – each state agreed to prepare action plans identifying specific actions their state will take to begin implementing collaboration suggestions identified at the workshop. These action plans will identify activities and those responsible for completing the activities.
2. **Conference call in six-months** – the group believed that a conference call of all workshop participants to obtain a status and encourage continued action was needed in six-months.
3. **Second workshop in 1 year** – All participants expressed their support for this gathering and believed another similar workshop would be beneficial in one year.
4. **Draft an MOU to institutionalize cross border O&M collaboration** – the group felt strongly that the current informal arrangements between states are at risk of discontinuing at any time with a change in personnel and a formal MOU was needed. Idaho provided an example of a joint powers agreement with Wyoming to share resources on a key state highway over Teton Pass between the two states. This could be used as a starting point to develop a North/West Passage MOU between the states.

Idaho Operations and Maintenance Coordination Action Plan

ITEM	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Add Yakima, WA TMC to CARS Messenger alerts for US 12 major events. 	Complete	Alison Lantz
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Add Spokane, WA TMC for CARS Messenger alerts for I-90 and US 2 major events. 	Complete	Alison Lantz
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaborate with Spokane TMC regarding sharing video and data from ITD District 1 (Coeur d' Alene) 	Initial discussion on June 13, 2008	Bob Koeberlein
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaborate with WASHDOT on building a westbound DMS on I-90 in Idaho. 	Initial discussion on June 13, 2008	Bob Koeberlein
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaborate with MDOT regarding building and operating an RWIS site at Lost Trail Pass Rest Area. 	Met with MDOT on June 26, 2008, MOU in review	Kent Wetzstein
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Add MDOT to CARS Messenger alerts for I-90, US 12, I-15, US 20 and US 93 major events. 	Complete	Alison Lantz
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Add WYDOT to CARS Messenger alerts for US 20, US 26, US 30, US 89, and SH 33 major events. 	Complete	Alison Lantz
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop MOU for snow plowing and slide clearance beyond Idaho borders for WA, MT, and WY. 	ID-WY MOU circulated for comment	Bob Koeberlein
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop protocol for posting out of state closures in Idaho CARS-511. 	Met to discuss on July 11, 2008, work started	Alison Lantz
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complete posting of RWIS data on CLARUS website. 	on-going	Kent Wetzstein
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support development of North/West Passage website. 	not started (next phase)	Alison Lantz
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Confirm call forwarding to neighboring states for CARS-511 	Complete	Alison Lantz
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Confirm web links for neighboring states on 511 website 	Complete	Alison Lantz

Montana Operations and Maintenance Coordination Action Plan

Item	Status	Responsible Person
- Post RWIS data on CLARUS website	Complete	Theresa Bousliman /Brandi Hamilton
- Include links for surrounding states on trav info website	Complete	Brandi Hamilton
- Pursue 511 interoperability with neighboring states	MT system currently includes all neighbors but Idaho and only provides 800 number – will continue to pursue interoperable concept	Brandi Hamilton
- Collaborate with ITD regarding RWIS site at Lost Trail and Lolo Pass	Lost Trail MOU has been signed by MDT and is being circulated by ITD / continue to pursue Lolo Pass	Kevin Bruski
- Support development of NWP website – next phase	2009 – next phase of NWP work plan	Brandi Hamilton
- Sign up appropriate MDT staff for ID CARS Messenger Alerts	Complete (will add others as necessary)	Doug Moeller/Brandi Hamilton
- Develop formal MOU to address cross border O&M collaboration and roadway emergency response	Planning	Jon Swartz/Brandi Hamilton
- Pursue ability to post surrounding states closure/incident information on MDT system	Complete (alert capability)	Brandi Hamilton
- Collaborate with neighboring states for posting related messages on DMS	Planning	Brandi Hamilton
- Develop formal MOU to allow neighboring states to mount roadway information signs (e.g. chains required)	Planning	Doug Moeller
- Collaborate with surrounding states to maintain ongoing contact to address future challenges and needs, create action plans as necessary, and continue to share information about O&M.	Currently MT has this in place with ID and WA. The states meet annually and have developed action plans, established contacts, and share information about O&M. Plans to pursue with other states as well.	TBD

North/West Passage
Cross Border Operations and Maintenance Collaboration Workshop
Follow-up Conference Call – October 7, 2008

CALL PARTICIPANTS

Name	Agency	Email Address	Phone Number
Bob Frey	HNTB	rfrey@hntb.com	414.359.2300
Troy Gilbertson	North Dakota DOT	tgilbert@nd.gov	701.239.8904
Mike Kisse	North Dakota DOT	mkisse@nd.gov	701.328.4410
Fred Kitchener	McFarland Management	fmkitch@mindspring.com	208.331.0072
Bob Koeberlein	Idaho Transportation Department	robert.koeberlein@itd.idaho.gov	208.334.8487
Doug Moeller	Montana DOT	dmoeller@mt.gov	406.523.5803
Curt Pape	Minnesota DOT	curt.pape@state.mn.us	651.366.3571
Tina Roelofs	Athey Creek Consultants	roelofs@acconsultants.org	651.207.5638
Ed Ryen	North Dakota DOT	eryen@nd.gov	701.328.4274
Harold White	Washington DOT	whitehl@wsdot.wa.gov	509.324.6550
Brandi Hamilton	Montana DOT	brhamilton@mt.gov	406.444.0468