



**North/West Passage  
Transportation Pooled Fund Study  
TPF-5(093)  
Q3 2006 Status Report  
July 1 – September 30, 2006**

**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 have been in contact since February 25, 2002 discussing the development of a North/West Passage multi-state transportation program, which was formally established as a TPF Study in 2003. North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin contributed funding for the development of a Phase 1 work plan. Additional contributions have been made by the states of Idaho, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington and Wyoming for the development of a Phase 2 work plan. Wisconsin and Montana continue to express interest in the North/West Passage Corridor, but do not have funding secured to participate at this time. The Federal Highway Administration 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.

**Status/Progress This Quarter and Next Steps**

**Phase 1 Work Plan Projects**

The North/West Passage TPF Study pursued eight projects selected and approved in December 2003 by the membership as outlined in the Work Plan – Phase 1 projects. The purpose of the Phase 1 projects was to implement and evaluate integrated traveler information systems and coordinate maintenance operations across state borders. All of the Phase 1 projects are now complete and individual reports for each are available online at [www.nwpassage.info](http://www.nwpassage.info). A full Phase 1 interim report has also been published and will be available online in the coming weeks.

**Phase 2 Work Plan Projects**

The Steering Committee will develop a full work plan identifying projects to pursue for Phase 2 in early 2006. However, the first project identified for Phase 2 will develop an ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan for the North/West Passage. The Steering Committee elected to wait until the strategic plan is further developed before identifying a more complete list of projects for Phase 2.

- **Project 2.1 – ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan**

The contract for this project was awarded to the SEH Team (SEH, PB Farradyne and TranSmart Technologies) and work began in mid-October. The plan will focus on center-to-center information sharing opportunities, includes a high-level architecture for the corridor, develop an inventory of communication coverage, and identify a coordinated deployment and operational

concept for traveler information systems across state borders. The plan will also consider current ITS industry interests such as the Clarus initiative and 511.

This quarter, two technical meetings took place (TM 4: 8-4-06 & TM 5: 9-21-06), which focused on review of the Technology Assessment (chapter 5), and Traveler Information and 511 Integration (chapter 7). Since those meeting occurred Chapters 5 and 7 have received comments from North/West Passage stakeholders. Those comments have been incorporated into the documents they will be posted to the project web site. The Maintenance and Operations System Integration outline was briefly discussed at TM 5 (chapter 8). Draft Chapter 8 will be presented at TM 6 in October.

| <b>Task</b>   | <b>Estimated Start</b>                 | <b>Estimated Finish</b>                |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Project Management, Administration and Coordination                  | Mon 10/17/05                           | Thu 11/30/06                           |
| 2. Complete Technology Inventory (chapter 1)                            | Mon 11/14/05                           | Thu 2/16/06                            |
| 3. Identify Issues, Problems and Needs (chapter 2)                      | Mon 1/16/06                            | Fri 3/10/06                            |
| 4. Establish Goals, Objectives and Vision (chapter 3)                   | Mon 1/16/06                            | Fri 3/10/06                            |
| 5. Concepts, Potential Solutions and Desired Functions (chapter 4)      | Mon 2/13/06                            | Fri 4/21/06                            |
| 6. Assess Technology (chapter 5)  | <del>Mon 3/20/06</del><br>Mon 5/22/06  | <del>Mon 5/22/06</del><br>Thu 8/24/06  |
| 7. Develop Corridor Architecture (chapter 6)                            | <del>Mon 5/22/06</del><br>Thu 4/20/06  | <del>Wed 9/13/06</del><br>Thu 6/29/06  |
| 8. Identify Traveler Information and 511 System Integration (chapter 7) | <del>Mon 5/22/06</del><br>Thu 7/20/06  | <del>Tue 8/1/06</del><br>Thu 9/21/06   |
| 9. Identify Maintenance and Operations System Integration (chapter 8)   | <del>Mon 5/22/06</del><br>Thu 9/21/06  | <del>Wed 9/13/06</del><br>Thu 10/19/06 |
| 10. Develop Concept of Operations and Deployment Strategy (chapter 9)   | <del>Mon 6/19/06</del><br>Thu 10/19/06 | <del>Thu 9/21/06</del><br>Thu 11/16/06 |
| 11. Prepare Strategic Plan  | <del>Mon 9/18/06</del><br>Thu 11/16/06 | <del>Mon 11/20/06</del><br>Thu 1/25/07 |

Next quarter, work will continue with the strategic plan. The Maintenance and Operations System Integration (chapter 8) and Develop Concept of Operations and Deployment Strategy (chapter 9) will be drafted.

Financial updates this quarter include the following:

- Minnesota and Wisconsin obligations have been completed.
- South Dakota is still outstanding, however, Dave Huft e-mailed to say they had turnover in their finance area that has slowed things up. He also confirmed their contribution.
- The amendment to the SEH contract was fully executed.
- Montana has signed their partnership agreement and this brings all eight states into the fold.

With all eight states now financially committed and the likelihood that work will continue, there should be another in-person pooled fund meeting. Mark Nelson thought potential focus for the

meeting could be review/discussion of the completed strategic plan in early 2007. Mark will give this further consideration and propose some dates and topics at one of the upcoming meetings.

Dean Deeter reported that FHWA expects to issue a Clarus Initiative Request for Applications (RFA) in September for corridor level applications from the states. It is expected that 3-5 corridors will be selected for funding to develop concepts of operations. Mitretek is preparing a national perspective on a con ops, while the state corridors are expected to focus on local concepts of operation. Following development of the concepts of operations, one corridor will be selected for demonstration of Clarus. Then a private sector request for proposals (RFP) will be issued for implementation.

A North/West Passage presentation was made at the 2006 National Rural ITS Conference in Bozeman, Montana. The presentation highlighted the strategic plan being developed for the corridor, as well as the group's recent participation in federal activities such as the Clarus initiative.

### **Phase 1 Work Plan Financial Summary**

Member commitments for Phase 1 Projects totaled \$100,000.

- North Dakota \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Minnesota \$50,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Wisconsin \$25,000 (80/20 I-90/94 Earmark Dollars)

### **Phase 2 Work Plan Financial Summary**

All of the eight states in the corridor have committed \$425,000 in total for a Phase 2 Work Plan. Following is a summary of financial contributions by members through March 31, 2006. 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.

- Idaho \$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)
- Minnesota \$100,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Montana \$25,000 (Source TBD)
- North Dakota \$50,000 (SP&R Dollars-Partially Obligated)
- South Dakota \$50,000 (SP&R Dollars-Not Yet Obligated)
- Washington \$50,000 (State Dollars)
- Wisconsin-\$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)
- Wyoming \$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)

### **Project Manager**

#### **Mark Nelson**

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*Report by: Jeff Lutz, SEH*

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