



North/West Passage
Transportation Pooled Fund Study
TPF-5(093)
Q2 2008 Status Report
April 1 – June 30, 2008

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 have since been 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 has been 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 continue the understanding and development of coordinated maintenance operations across state borders.

Status/Progress This Quarter

Phase 3 Work Plan Projects

The Phase 3 Work Plan is available online at: <http://www.nwpassage.info/about/workplan.php>. Building on several projects recommended in the ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan for North/West Passage, the Phase III Work Plan presents a series of projects targeted for completion in 2007-2008. The projects continue to develop, expand implementation and evaluate integrated traveler information systems. They also continue the understanding and development of coordinated maintenance operations across state borders. The progress of the five projects to be completed under the Phase 3 Work is summarized in the next several bullets.

- **Project 3.1: Corridor-Wide Consistent Major Event Descriptions**

The intent of Project 3.1 is to develop a set of corridor-wide consistent event descriptions that can be used by each North/West Passage state to describe events, and ultimately support a very effective exchange of event descriptions to benefit the corridor-wide website and traveler information systems operated within each state. The committee agreed that the project would focus on identifying consistent event descriptions for the four event types:

- 1. Weather conditions (i.e., road surface, precipitation, etc.)*
- 2. Vehicle restrictions*
- 3. Road work*
- 4. Incidents*

During this quarter additional information was gathered from each state to complete the document. Information gathered included states' plans to make changes as a result of the draft report. States also provided additional comments to the draft report regarding the translations phrases.

The North/West Passage group was also informed that the abstract submitted by the group regarding Project 3.1 to the World Congress/ITS America Annual Meeting was accepted.

- Project 3.2: Clarus Regional Demonstration Concept of Operations

Clarus is an initiative to develop and demonstrate an integrated surface transportation weather observing, forecasting and data management system, and to establish a partnership to create a Nationwide Surface Transportation Weather Observing and Forecasting System.

During this quarter work continued on developing the metadata and a final report is being prepared to summarize the Clarus project and identify lessons learned.

- Project 3.3: CAD to Reporting System Integration – Workshop

The intent of this project is to conduct a workshop for North/West Passage members to learn the details about the challenges, issues, lessons learned, benefits and costs integrating CAD with reporting systems.

A summary of the meeting proceedings from the March 12 Workshop was prepared and distributed to attendees. The summary, along with supporting reference materials is available through the North/West Passage program web site (<http://www.nwpassage.info/projects/phase3/proj3/>).

- Project 3.4: North/West Passage Traveler Information Web Site

Project 3.4 focuses on developing a traveler information web site for travelers on the I-90/I-94 Corridor from Wisconsin to Washington. In March 2007, a Preliminary Design Document was developed for a North/West Passage Corridor-Wide Advanced Traveler Information System (ATIS) Website. This document will be revised and used as a basis for developing the website.

A project team was identified to meet outside of the Steering Committee meetings to focus on the details of Project 3.4 and provide overall guidance for the project. The Project 3.4 Team consists of Bill Legg, Brandi Hamilton, Ginny Crowson, Ed Ryan, and the consultant staff.

All website comments from the Steering Committee were incorporated into the website and approved by the Steering Committee. The website went live during this quarter and is available at: www.i90i94travelinfo.com. Outreach materials were developed to assist each state with informing potential users of the website.

- Project 3.5: Cross Border O&M Collaboration – Workshop
The intent of this project is to conduct a workshop for North/West Passage member states to further collaborate operations and maintenance activities at the borders.

The workshop was held on May 20 and 21, 2008 in Bloomington, Minnesota. Twenty individuals participated in the workshop. The workshop provided an opportunity for discussion between states regarding operation and maintenance activities within their state and at borders. Each state was asked to develop an action plan based on information gained at the workshop.

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 15, 2008
A Steering Committee Meeting was held on April 15, 2008. The primary focus of this meeting was to provide an update on the Phase 3 projects and discuss voting results for moving forward with Phase 4 projects. Meeting material and minutes are available online at: www.nwpassage.info/viewmeet.php?id=79.
- Steering Committee Meeting on May 13, 2008
A Steering Committee Meeting was held on May 13, 2008. The primary focus of this meeting was to provide an update on the Phase 3 projects and review the Phase 4 work plan. Meeting material and minutes are available online at: www.nwpassage.info/viewmeet.php?id=80.
- Steering Committee Meeting on June 24, 2008
A Steering Committee Meeting was held on June 24, 2008. The primary focus of this meeting was to provide an update on the Phase 3 projects and discuss funding commitments for Phase 4. Meeting material and minutes are available online at: www.nwpassage.info/viewmeet.php?id=81.

Status/Progress Anticipated Next Quarter

- Steering Committee Meetings on August 12 and September 16, 2008
The Steering Committee is scheduled to meet again in August and September to finish remaining work on the Phase 3 projects and, depending on the status of funding commitments, make plans for initiating the fourth work plan.
- Project 3.1: Corridor-Wide Consistent Major Event Descriptions
Project 3.1 will focus on incorporating comments provided by each state as well as following up with each state as appropriate to discuss the recommended translation phrases identified in the draft report.

Project 3.1 will also focus on writing a final paper and developing a presentation for the World Congress/ITS America Annual Meeting in November.
- Project 3.2: Clarus Regional Demonstration Concept of Operations

Project 3.2 will be completed by the end of August 2008. The next phase of this project will be led by the private sector. No one has yet contacted the North/West Passage to participate in Phase 3.

- Project 3.3: CAD to Reporting System Integration – Workshop
Project 3.3 was completed.
- Project 3.4: North/West Passage Traveler Information Web Site
Each North/West Passage state will continue outreach efforts for the website.
- Project 3.5: Cross Border O&M Collaboration – Workshop
Workshop proceedings will be developed and distributed. Each state will work on developing an action plan from the discussion at the workshop.

Phase 1 Work Plan 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)

The primary expense associated with the Phase 1 solicitation was a contract with URS Corporation to provide program support and deliver projects in the Phase 1 Work Plan which is available online at: www.nwpassage.info/about/workplan.php. The contract totaled \$202,576.

Phase 2 and Phase 3 Work Plan Financial Summary

The eight states in the corridor committed \$450,000 through a Phase 2 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 will administer and track other state and federal dollars through partnership agreements with the corresponding states.

- Idaho \$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)
- Minnesota \$150,000¹ (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)

Of the \$450,000 in contributions received through the Phase 2 solicitation, in addition to \$15,000 in Peer-To-Peer funding for Project 3.3, \$434,949 has been committed to the following expenses to-date:

¹ While updating financial records in preparation for the March 11 annual meeting, it was discovered the Minnesota had actually contributed \$150,000 in Phase 2, vs. the previously reported \$100,000.

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Expenses

Contract-Short Elliott Hendrickson-Project 2.1	\$	173,379
Contract-University of North Dakota-Project 3.2	\$	37,500
Contract-Athey Creek-Program Support and Projects 3.1, 3.3-3.5	\$	179,886
Contract-NDSU-Web Site Management (March 2006-February 2008)	\$	4,270
Contract-NDSU-Web Site Management (March 2008-February 2010)	\$	4,792
Travel-2006 Annual Meeting	\$	4,827
Travel-2007 Annual Meeting	\$	5,087
Travel-2008 Annual Meeting (estimate)	\$	10,000
Travel-Project 3.5 (estimate)	\$	20,000
Total Expenses	\$	439,741

Note: \$173,379 was originally allocated to the contract with SEH to complete the ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan. However, the contract was completed at the cost of \$162,220, which will allow an estimated \$11,159 to remain in the pooled fund budget for reallocation to Phase 3. This number is estimated until final audit is completed by Mn/DOT.

These expenses are associated with the Phase 2 and Phase 3 Work Plans. Full copies of the work plans are available online at: www.nwpassage.info/about/workplan.php.

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