

SICOP QUARTERLY REPORT

July-September 2008

RWIS/Anti-Icing Computer-Based Training Program

Background

This project was identified by AASHTO's Winter Maintenance Policy Coordinating Committee (WMPCC) as two projects, reviewed and evaluated at the Snow and Ice Cooperative Fund Program (SICOP) Workshop held in Minneapolis in April 1997, and given the highest priority by WMPCC at their October 2-3, 1997 meeting. One project was entitled "Anti-icing training for state, county and municipal highway operations" and the other "Road Weather Information System (RWIS) Training". The two subjects were so interrelated that it was decided to combine them into one project, RWIS/AI Computer-Based Training. The objective of the training was to develop and deliver a comprehensive training program on RWIS, anti-icing strategies, snow and ice control materials, equipment and procedures for personnel responsible for deciding the level of service to be provided on highways and streets under winter conditions. Training would utilize a series of realistic scenario-based exercises. Critiques following each exercise would be designed to contribute to new insights by participants, and provide a basis for subsequent exercises. The concept was endorsed by the FHWA's Lead States Program which subsequently formed a Lead States Anti-icing Team. This Team put together the basic course content before the Lead States Program was sunset in September 2000. At that point, the Aurora Consortium stepped forward and put together the Request for Proposal, advertised the RFP, and assisted in selecting the contractor. AASHTO wrote a letter to all member States in June 2000 announcing the opportunity to participate in the pooled fund project. The pooled fund was originally assigned a study number of SPR-3(104) and because of a duplicate number problem was assigned a second number of TPF-5(009). Most of the snow-belt states have joined the pooled fund study. A contract was let in March 2001 and a Technical Working Group (TWG) formed to guide the project. Thirty-one states, APWA, NACE, FHWA, Aurora and the New York State Thruway Authority have joined and have paid or are in the process of paying into the pooled fund. The Technical Working Group (TWG) met with the contractor September 10-13, 2001 in Nevada to review draft storyboards for the seven lessons of the CBT. The contractor completed a draft CD-ROM containing all seven lessons and submitted to the TWG for final comments and approval. TWG was able to complete their review of the first three lessons in summer 2002, lessons 4-6 in mid-March 2003, and Lesson 7 in mid April 2003. In October 2002 the contractor submitted a CD-ROM containing the first three lessons to the State DOTs who joined the pooled fund and asked for their recommendations for any customization they needed. The CD-ROM containing all seven lessons (with additional revisions to lessons 1-3) was submitted May 1, 2003 to the State DOTs asking for their final customization recommendations.

Most State DOTs integrated the CD-ROM into their existing training programs usually as a stand alone portion of either an academy program or as a module in their maintenance course offerings. The success of using a CD-ROM that could be available at each field location proved to be an effective means to provide technology transfer for emerging snow and ice control research. The AASHTO Winter Maintenance Technical Service Program (WMTSP) Committee

(previously established as the WMPCC) decided to take the research results from NCHRP winter maintenance projects as they were completed and published and integrate those results into the AI/RWIS CBT lessons. Currently NCHRP projects are finished when the final report is published. NCHRP does not usually get involved in technology transfer efforts beyond the published report so this makes an ideal project for SICOP to get research results implemented into field maintenance operations. Additionally, the Clear Roads Consortium asked SICOP to develop CD-ROM CBT lessons to cover a variety of maintenance training needs outside of the snow and ice control program.

Quarterly Progress

Two years ago, AASHTO and Clear Roads joined forces to develop the following Computer-based Training Programs; *Equipment Maintenance*; *Proper Plowing Techniques*; *Blowing Snow Mitigation*; *Deicing*; and *Winter Maintenance Management*. The contractor has completed and distributed the first four CBTs listed above. The first three were reported in previous Quarterly Progress Reports. The fourth CBT *Deicing* underwent considerable revision by the Technical Working Group and the final version was distributed April 25, 2008. The Technical Working Group completed their final review of the *Winter Maintenance Management* CBT which consisted of 224 storyboards, 40 pre and post assessment questions and testing of the Beta 1 Version CD ROM to insure all material is correct and complete and the internet links work. The final CBT was distributed on July 31, 2008. The contractor spent most of his time this quarter on developing a Learning Management System (LMS) for the CBTs. The LMS is being field tested in Iowa, Kansas and North Dakota.