



North/West Passage
Transportation Pooled Fund Study
TPF-5(093)
Q4 2007 Status Report
October 1 – December 31, 2007

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 was finalized in late April and 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 each North/West Passage state was contacted to gather baseline data of the processes used to identify description phrases/policies for each of the four event types. Three documents were prepared to summarize the information collected and illustrate the common phrases used by each state.

- 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, an application for the Connection Incentive Program (CIP) was prepared by Dave Huft and submitted in early October. Stakeholder meetings which were held in the eight states to gather input on how Clarus might be used were also completed in October. Based on the stakeholder input, a series of online surveys were prepared to gather further input from broader stakeholder groups. All of the stakeholder input culminated into the Concept of Operations document that was submitted to FHWA in mid-December. Metadata collection continues in each of the states.

- 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.

During this quarter the workshop location and logistics were finalized. The workshop will be held on March 12, 2008 in Tacoma, Washington in conjunction with the Pooled Fund Annual Meeting. Each North/West Passage state continued to identify workshop attendees.

- 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 Ryen, and the consultant staff.

The Project 3.4 Team held two conference calls during this quarter. The following bullets summarize the meetings.

- Project 3.4 Project Team Meeting on October 1, 2007
The Project 3.4 Team held a conference call on October 1, 2007. The focus of this meeting was to review the Preliminary Design Document, discuss a domain name, and discuss hosting options. The group suggested adding testable requirements to the Preliminary Design Document and to suggest website domain names for consideration by the group. The group agreed that initially the site should be hosted by North Dakota State University - ATAC until the design and feedback phase of the project is completed, so they have access to updating the site as comments are received. NDSU-ATAC will identify hosting options to consider once the project is completed.

- Project 3.4 Team Meeting on November 20, 2007
The Project 3.4 Team held a conference call on November 1, 2007. The primary focus of this call was to review the testable requirements that were added to the Preliminary Design Document. The group also discussed the following website domain names.
 - I90I94travelinfo.com
 - nwpassagetravelinfo.com
 - WashingtontoWisconsininfo.com
 - Northernstatestravelinfo.com

- 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.

A draft agenda and guidelines for attendees have been prepared. The workshop will be held on May 20 and 21, 2008 in Arden Hills, Minnesota.

- Pooled Fund Annual Meeting
The Pooled Fund Annual Meeting will be held on March 11, 2008 in Tacoma, Washington in conjunction with the CAD to Reporting System Integration Workshop.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee provides overall program direction.

The committee held two calls during the 4th Quarter. The following bullets summarize the meeting discussions.

- Steering Committee Meeting on October 24, 2007
A Steering Committee Meeting was held on October 24, 2007. The primary focus of this meeting was to provide an update on the Phase 3 projects. Meeting material and minutes are available online at: <http://www.nwpassage.info/meetings.php?cat=sc&year=2007>.

- Steering Committee Meeting on November 28, 2007
A Steering Committee Meeting was held on November 28, 2007. The primary focus of this meeting was to provide an update on the Phase 3 projects and review the information collected for Project 3.1: Corridor-Wide Consistent Major Event Descriptions. Logistics for another round of funding solicitation/commitment were also discussed at the meeting. Meeting material and minutes will be available online after they have been approved at the January 22, 2008 meeting.

Status/Progress Anticipated Next Quarter

- Steering Committee Meetings on January 22, February 12, and March 11, 2008
The Steering Committee is scheduled to meet in January and February to continue work on the Phase 3 projects. The Steering Committee Annual Meeting will be held in Tacoma, Washington on March 11, 2008 to review the progress of the Phase 3 projects and to begin discussions for a Phase 4 Work Plan.
- Project 3.1: Corridor-Wide Consistent Major Event Descriptions
Project 3.1 will focus on categorizing the phrases for each event type and identify recommended phrases that are consistent with the standards for consistency across the corridor to be discussed at the January 22, 2008 Steering Committee Conference Call. Particular attention will be directed toward recommendations that are easiest to implement and require as little changes to existing systems as possible.
- Project 3.2: Clarus Regional Demonstration Concept of Operations
Site and climate record environmental metadata will continue to be collected and documented.
- Project 3.3: CAD to Reporting System Integration – Workshop
State representatives will continue to identify representatives from their state to participate in the workshop. Workshop materials and logistics will be finalized for dissemination in February 2008 and the workshop will be held on March 12, 2008.
- Project 3.4: North/West Passage Traveler Information Web Site
The Preliminary Design Document will be finalized to guide the development of the website. The Project 3.4 Team will meet on January 24, 2008 to review the website prototype and identify the website domain name.
- Project 3.5: Cross Border O&M Collaboration – Workshop
The workshop agenda and guidelines will be revised for approval by the Steering Committee.

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 and Phase 3 Work Plan Financial Summary

The eight states in the corridor committed \$400,000 through the solicitation associated with the Phase 2 Work Plan. Following is a summary of financial contributions by members 2007. 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 \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars-Partially Obligated)
- South Dakota \$50,000 (SP&R Dollars-Not Yet Obligated)

North/West Passage TPF Study
Q4 2007 Status Report

- Washington \$50,000 (State Dollars)
- Wisconsin-\$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)
- Wyoming \$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)

Of the \$400,000 in contributions through 2007, \$176,990 has been committed to-date to the following expenses:

- Project 2.1 – ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan \$162,220¹
- Travel \$10,500
- Web Site Maintenance \$4,270

The balance of \$223,010, in addition to \$15,000 in Peer-To-Peer funding for Project 3.3, has been tentatively budgeted as shown in Table 1 in accordance with the Phase 3 Work Plan.

Furthermore, an additional \$25,000 was committed to the pooled fund budget for 2008 by Wisconsin on August 27, 2007. This money has not yet been allocated.

Table 1: Phase III Work Plan Budget

Phase III Work Plan Projects	Cost Estimate
Traveler Information	
3.1. Corridor-Wide Consistent Major Event Descriptions	\$ 45,000
3.2. Clarus Regional Demonstration Concept of Operations	\$ 37,500
3.3. CAD to Reporting System Integration - Workshop	\$ 40,000
3.4. North/West Passage Traveler Information Web Site	\$ 30,000
Operations and Maintenance	
3.5. Cross Border O&M Collaboration - Workshop	\$ 40,000
Program Management	
3.6. Administrative Support	\$ 25,000
3.7. Pooled Fund Annual Meeting - State Rep Travel	\$ 8,000
Total	\$ 225,500

Project Manager (Program Administrator)

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*Report by: Tina Roelofs, Athey Creek Consultants
Submitted: January 15, 2008*

¹ \$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 allowed \$11,159 to remain in the pooled fund budget for reallocation to Phase 3.