

## TRANSPORTATION POOLED FUND PROGRAM QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Lead Agency (FHWA or State DOT): Nevada Department of Transportation

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

*Project Managers and/or research project investigators should complete a quarterly progress report for each calendar quarter during which the projects are active. Please provide a project schedule status of the research activities tied to each task that is defined in the proposal; a percentage completion of each task; a concise discussion (2 or 3 sentences) of the current status, including accomplishments and problems encountered, if any. List all tasks, even if no work was done during this period.*

<b>Transportation Pooled Fund Program Project #</b> <i>(i.e, SPR-2(XXX), SPR-3(XXX) or TPF-5(XXX))</i> TPF-5(358)		<b>Transportation Pooled Fund Program - Report Period:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31)                      2020 <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30) <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30) <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 4 (October 1 – December 31)	
<b>Project Title:</b> <i>The Wildlife Vehicle Collision (WVC) Reduction and Habitat Connectivity Transportation Pooled-Fund Project Strategic Integration of Wildlife Mitigation into Transportation Procedures</i>			
<b>Name of Project Manager(s):</b> Nova Simpson for Nevada DOT Patricia Cramer, PI	<b>Phone Number:</b> Nova Simpson: 775-888-7035 Patricia Cramer: 435-764-1995	<b>E-Mail</b> <a href="mailto:nsimpson@dot.nv.gov">nsimpson@dot.nv.gov</a> <a href="mailto:cramerwildlife@gmail.com">cramerwildlife@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Lead Agency Project ID:</b> Nevada Dept. of Transportation	<b>Other Project ID (i.e., contract #):</b> Agreement #: P700-18-803	<b>Project Start Date:</b> 12/13/2018	
<b>Original Project End Date:</b> 12/31/2021	<b>Current Project End Date:</b> 12/31/2021	<b>Number of Extensions:</b> 0	

Project schedule status:

On schedule     
  On revised schedule     
  Ahead of schedule     
  Behind schedule

Overall Project Statistics:

Total Project Budget	Total Cost to Date for Project	Percentage of Work Completed to Date
\$146,000.00	~\$32,200	30%

Quarterly Project Statistics:

Total Project Expenses and Percentage This Quarter	Total Amount of Funds Expended This Quarter	Total Percentage of Time Used to Date
4.9	4.9	33.3%

**Project Description:**

The *Wildlife Vehicle Collision (WVC) Reduction and Habitat Connectivity* pooled fund study is a collaborative research project through the Transportation Pooled Fund Program. Partners from both the United States and Canada have come together with a common interest in reducing WVC's for the safety of humans and wildlife, as well as restoring habitat connectivity in landscapes fragmented by roadways. Contributing partners currently include Alaska DOT, Arizona DOT, California DOT, Iowa DOT, Minnesota DOT, Nevada DOT, Ontario Ministry of Transportation, Oregon DOT, and Washington DOT.

This pooled fund study (PFS) will seek to identify solutions that integrate highway safety and mobility with wildlife conservation and habitat connectivity. The Project: Strategic Integration of Wildlife Mitigation into Transportation Procedures is conducted under Principal Investigator Patricia Cramer and is reported on in this progress report.

Within U.S. states and Canadian provinces, there are few standardized planning processes for considering wildlife in transportation planning, or Best Management Practices (BMP) manuals to instruct personnel at every level how to consider, plan, design, construct, and maintain transportation infrastructure that permits connectivity for wild and domestic animals that could become involved in WVC. This study investigates and makes recommendations on successful procedures that consider and create mitigation solutions to reduce WVC and provide connectivity for wildlife to assist transportation agencies in developing standards at every level.

**Progress this Quarter (includes meetings, work plan status, contract status, significant progress, etc.):**

The team worked on creating and finalizing the 2019 Annual Report. Team members continued to author case study stories of how progressive actions have been taken by various states, counties, and cities to include consideration of wildlife in transportation processes. These case studies focused on areas the survey participants believed were the two most important areas of progress needed to make wildlife considerations every day occurrences: institutionalizing consideration of wildlife, and funding. The team wrote and adapted case studies of state and regional efforts in: Arizona, Montana, and an engineering perspective. A survey of all state traffic safety engineers was released through AASHTO's Liaison for the Committee on Safety. The survey asked the engineers to enter crash data into a templated Excel spreadsheet that calculated the annual average number of total crashes, crashes with animals, and crashes with wildlife, using the state's crash costs, and FHWA's 2018 crash costs. As of March 31, approximately 36 states had responded and provided data.

**Anticipated work next quarter:**

The team will work to complete Task 1 and its sub-tasks. This includes list and compare methods (A.i.d), Identify pros and cons of efforts (A.i.e), Identify Gaps in the science and practice (A.i.f), and Identify how others can be brought into practices (A.i.g) . We will also work on task Aii, the description of Successful Partnerships, and task Aiii, Data requirements. It is expected that the crash costs for all states will be calculated. It is also expected that Task 1 will be completed and a report will be submitted.

**Significant Results:**

The US-Canadian on-line survey is completed (Aia.) Ten case studies on how states and other entities create considerations for wildlife in transportation planning have been written about (Aib). The main literature search is complete, with additions to be made throughout the duration of the project (Aic). Work continues on data needs and other aspects of Task 1.

**Circumstance affecting project or budget. (Please describe any challenges encountered or anticipated that might affect the completion of the project within the time, scope and fiscal constraints set forth in the agreement, along with recommended solutions to those problems).**

The budget is very constrained for the tasks in this work. The team will strive to complete all deliverables within the budget and time frame set forth in the contract. The Covid-19 pandemic will continue to affect this project. Dr. Cramer submitted an abstract to present some of the study results and learn from northeastern states and provinces at the September 2020 Northeastern Conference on Wildlife and Transportation. It is unlikely this conference will be held. All activities that entailed meeting with people in 2020 will be curtailed. It may be prudent to extend the project for an additional year to accommodate opportunities to present at conferences that will be canceled or pushed back, such as the Transportation Research Board meeting in Washington DC, the Northeastern Wildlife Conference, and possibly ICOET.

**Potential Implementation:**

The information generated from this work will be available for U.S. DOT's and Canadian MoT's for assistance in incorporating wildlife concerns into transportation processes.  
It may also be used in the development of the forthcoming U.S. Transportation Act.

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<b>Transportation Pooled Fund Program Project #</b>  <i>Wildlife Vehicle Collision (WVC) Reduction and Habitat Connectivity</i> Task 1 – Cost Effective Solutions Transportation Pooled-Fund Project TPF-5(358)		<b>Transportation Pooled Fund Program - Report Period:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31) 2020 <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30) <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30) <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 4 (October 1 – December 31)	
<b>Project Title:</b> WVC Reduction & Habitat Connectivity NVDOT			
<b>Name of Project Manager(s):</b> Dr. Marcel Huijser	<b>Phone Number:</b> 406-543-2377	<b>E-Mail</b> mhuijser@montana.edu	
<b>Lead Agency Project ID:</b> 4W7576	<b>Other Project ID (i.e., contract #):</b> 4W7576	<b>Project Start Date:</b> 18 Dec 2018	
<b>Original Project End Date:</b> 30 Sep 2022	<b>Current Project End Date:</b> 30 Sep 2022	<b>Number of Extensions:</b> 0	

Project schedule status:

- On schedule     
  On revised schedule     
  Ahead of schedule     
  Behind schedule

Overall Project Statistics:

Total Project Budget	Total Cost to Date for Project	Percentage of Work Completed to Date
\$354,001.00	\$109,093.40	31%

Quarterly Project Statistics:

Total Project Expenses and Percentage This Quarter	Total Amount of Funds Expended This Quarter	Total Percentage of Time Used to Date
\$13,341.10, 3.8%	\$13,341.10	33%

**Project Description:**

Most research modules have been submitted and have been processed.

2 remain under development:

1. Wildlife jump-outs and measures at gaps in fences at access roads.
2. Meta analyses Banff and Hwy 93 MT

Worked on rewriting literature review.

**Progress this Quarter (includes meetings, work plan status, contract status, significant progress, etc.):**

See above

**Anticipated work next quarter:**

Submit the last 2 remaining research modules:

1. Wildlife jump-outs and measures at gaps in fences at access roads.
2. Meta analyses Banff and Hwy 93 MT

Address comments literature review, create final report.

Continue with updated values cost-benefit analyses.

**Significant Results:**

**Circumstance affecting project or budget. (Please describe any challenges encountered or anticipated that might affect the completion of the project within the time, scope and fiscal constraints set forth in the agreement, along with recommended solutions to those problems).**

None

**Potential Implementation:**

None