

Deer-Vehicle Crash Information and Research Center (DVCIR Center)
RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING: March 31, 2008

Pooled Fund Program Number: TPF- 5 (120)	Part: II Research and Development
Project Title: Deer-Vehicle Crash Information and Research Center Technical and Administrative Contact: Keith Knapp, UMN Center for Excellence in Rural Safety FHWA Lead Agency Contact: Mary Gray, FHWA	Project IDs (Internal): 402531, 402521 Sponsors: IA, CT, MD, MN, NH, NY, OH, TX, WI, and FHWA Approved Starting Date: 3/19/07 (Admin. Contract) Approved Ending Date: 3/19/09 (Admin. Contract)

Description: The Deer-Vehicle Crash Information and Research Center (DVCIR Center) was created to continue the tasks being completed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation multi-state Deer-Vehicle Crash Information Center (DVCIC). The center will also fund research projects as defined by the participating pooled fund members. A commitment of \$10,000 to \$25,000 per year and a two-year involvement were requested for participation. Available funds (per www.pooledfund.org) currently total \$345,000 and include \$50,000 from MN, NY, OH, WI, and IA. WI has also provided the project with the use of their DVCIC website (www.deercrash.com). An additional \$10,000 has been committed by CT and MD, and \$25,000 from NH, TX, and the FHWA. Additional funds for the second year of participation from CT, MD, NH, and TX could total \$70,000. Two 2-year contracts, totaling \$130,000, were initiated between TTI and the FHWA (the lead agency) on March 19, 2007 for the continuation of DVCIC activities and administration activities of the DVCIR Center. Subcontracts are now being negotiated between TTI and the University of Minnesota (UMN) for completion of this work. Contracts for the completion of the research portion of the project with the remaining available funds (\$190,000 with the potential for another \$70,000) will follow. The kick-off meeting for the pooled fund was January 30, 2007 in MN and the administration contracts started March 19, 2007. The first kickoff meeting was funded by the Southwest University Transportation Research Center. A second meeting was held October 2007.

The lead agency of this pooled fund is currently the Federal Highway Administration Office of Natural and Human Environment.

Progress This Quarter (plus previous work):

The following activities have occurred between January 1 and March 31, 2008:

- Held conference call for final discussion of SOWs and to discuss/decide upon whether ongoing animal collision data collection project at the Western Transportation Institute (WTI) should also be supported. Based on this discussion, and the potential for FHWA collaboration with one of the other two DVCIR Center projects it was decided to partially fund the WTI project. The decision to support the WTI project was a reversal of a decision made last quarter.
- Completed and reviewed final draft statement of work (SOW) for two subjects ultimately selected in October 2007 by technical advisory committee for research support (one on hot spot analysis and the other on roadside mowing policies).
- Submitted SOWs to FHWA for advancement to the funding stage.
- Completed paperwork and continued to wait approvals of subcontracts between TTI and University of Minnesota to complete work in administrative contracts. Minimal amount of work can be completed without these subcontracts.
- Continued to work with RailCrew Express of Kansas to advance the evaluation of in-vehicle technologies to reduce DVCs using their van fleet.
- Continued to discuss pooled fund participation with individual states and other organizations as opportunities arose.
- Continued to collect additional or new "research" documents for potential review and addition as addendum to countermeasure toolbox. This work has been put on hold until the subcontracts are started.
- Continued to consider updates to website, but this work has also been put on hold until subcontracts are started.
- Completed and published final report for Southwest University Transportation Center that focuses on Texas DVC situation.
- Worked with FHWA to find obligated state funds and determine what the states need to do to allow advancement of project.

Approximate Percentage of Project Complete: Approx. 29% (for \$130,000 administrative contracts out of \$345,000 committed). Almost no funds were spent this quarter due to the lack of subcontracts (only \$1,575.38 was charged). This has increased under spent situation on the budget (comparing percentage spent (29%) to contract time completed (50%)) for the administrative work contracts. Research contracts yet to be let.

Work Next Quarter (January – March 2008):

- Finalize subcontracts between TTI and UMN. Knapp is with UMN and no longer a TTI employee.
- Continue to work with RailCrew Express and others with respect to advancing other animal collision technology evaluations.

- Continue to work with FHWA to get DOT and FHWA funding where it should be in the accounts so that it can be used for the research projects.
- Work with FHWA to advertise for proposals on research subjects, start review process, and select contractor(s). Also work to transfer funds to WTI for project support.
- Work with FHWA to coordinate the “mowing” problem statement with ongoing FHWA “invasive vegetation” project. Combine these projects as agreed.
- Consider scheduling a fall symposium and design plan for sponsorship funding.
- Respond to requests for information and potential state visits.
- Continue critique/update website with pooled fund site section, data, paper evaluations as completed, and any other improvements as needed (e.g., links, document summaries, etc.)
- Consider creating deer crash brochure for fall use by states as part of DVCIR Center administrative duties.
- Design and initiate Deer-Vehicle Crash Reduction Information newsletter (Potential title: “The Buck Stops Here”) if subcontracts are completed

Circumstances affecting progress/budget:

- Two delays related to project administration occurred this quarter. First, TTI/University of Minnesota subcontracts are still not in place and work can not be completed until that occurs. Second, the state and FHWA funds within the FHWA fiscal management system are not in the correct location/account due to changes in the system, etc. Until this is resolved the research project ideas can not be advertised for proposals.
- The method of contracting for the research portion of the funding is being determined. Several approaches are being explored with FHWA.

