

**Deer-Vehicle Crash Information and Research Center (DVCIR Center)**  
**RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING: September 30, 2008**

<b>Pooled Fund Program Number: TPF- 5 (120)</b>	<b>Part: II Research and Development</b>
<b>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</b>	<b>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)</b>

**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. Committed funds (per [www.pooledfund.org](http://www.pooledfund.org)) currently total \$355,000 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](http://www.deercrash.com)). An additional \$10,000-20,000 has been committed by CT and MD, and \$25,000 added by NH, TX, and the FHWA. Additional funds for the second year of participation from several states could total about \$60,000.

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 were being negotiated between TTI and the University of Minnesota (UMN) for completion of this work, but in September TTI asked for termination and complete transfer to UMN. TTI and FHWA are discussing whether this can occur. Contracts for the completion of the research portion of the project with the remaining available funds (\$225,000 with the potential for another \$60,000) will follow in individual research contracts. 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 not funded by the pooled fund but 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 July 1 and September 30, 2008:

- It is believed that all the state funds that are still available in this pooled fund have been added into and/or transferred (due to a FHWA change in fiscal system) to the proper account. These transfers occurred throughout the last 8 months. The funds should now be available for funding the current contracts (between TTI and FHWA) and future research projects.
- The subcontracts to allow the administrative project contracts to continue were submitted to FHWA in early 2008. This subcontract approach was approved by FHWA in late June. Negotiations between TTI and UMN occurred this quarter to finalize the subcontracts or purchase order approach to allow Knapp the ability to work on the pooled fund.
- In late September/early October TTI asked for a termination of their involvement and contract with FHWA along with a transfer of the remaining funds to UMN/Knapp. These discussions are continuing between TTI and FHWA.
- No funded work was completed or charged to the contracts indicated above (between TTI and FHWA) because the PI and sole pooled fund staffer at TTI (Knapp) has been at UMN since January 2008. No tasks, as indicated in those TTI/FHWA contracts were advanced.
- Knapp has continued to respond to requests by Western Transportation Institute asked about funding for the Roadkill Observation Collection System (ROCS) project (which the pooled fund TAC agreed to help fund).
- Knapp has continued to respond, as possible, to media requests and state DOT requests about the subject.
- Knapp has discussed with ICOET 2009 (Duluth) planning committee representative the possibility of having 2009 DVC symposium related meeting incorporated with ICOET.
- Knapp presented and critically evaluated the results of the AVC congressional report at the Minnesota Towards Zero Death meeting in October 2008.

**Approximate Percentage of Project Complete:** Approx. 29% of the budget has been spent from the \$130,000 administrative contracts (out of \$355,000 committed). No funds were spent this quarter. The changes in contract administration procedures noted above have exacerbated the under spent situation of the budget (i.e., the percentage spent (29%) compared to the contract time

completed (75%). An extension to the existing contracts or new contracts will likely be needed. Research contracts have not yet been let.

**Work Next Quarter (October - December 2008):**

- Would like to have the contractual situation resolved so Knapp (or an acceptable substitute) can work on the completion of the administration tasks as noted in the original contracts – including website updates, literature/data updates, annual meeting, and pushing for RFPs on the ready to release research project statements.
- New website storage location is needed as a transfer will be required. This transfer is necessary until the contract is resolved. Desirably it is on a server that won't charge a month fee (as there will be no contracts). Access to the server site will not be necessary as long as there are no contracts in place. Once administration contracts are in place a few can be paid or another transfer will occur to allow access.
- Desirably, FHWA releases an RFP on at least one of the research projects. Administration of review of responses, tracking, etc. with pooled fund members input will require an active contract (see point one above) or be completed by lead agency.
- Desirably, an annual meeting/symposium will be held. Planning, etc. of meeting will require an active contract (see point one above) or be completed by lead agency.

**Circumstances affecting progress/budget:**

- The delays due to the contractual and fiscal fund account issues have been significant and have put all efforts behind schedule. The schedule needs to be redone and the contractual situation resolved. At this point there are no pooled fund staff at TTI and the only contracts that exist are between TTI & FHWA (see above). UMN and/or Knapp is not under contract to advance any pooled fund tasks. The tasks completed in quarterly reports related from January to September 2008 were voluntary.
- The research projects to be funded by the pooled fund were ready for advertisement last spring. The funds have now been found to allow this. The administration of doing this advertisement and tracking was part of the contract between TTI and FHWA (see situation described above).

