

**Deer-Vehicle Crash Information and Research Center (DVCIR Center)**  
**RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING: December 31, 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 and in January 2009 it would appear that TTI and UMN came to an agreement. 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 Project Development and Environmental Review.

**Progress This Quarter (plus previous work):**

The following activities have occurred between October 1 and December 31, 2008:

- TTI requested a termination of existing contracts and a transfer to University of Minnesota. FHWA decided that this could not occur and the subcontract/PO approach was pursued.
- Negotiations between TTI and UMN has apparently lead to an agreement and Knapp can start work in January 2009/
- No funded work was completed or charged to the current contracts. No tasks, as indicated in those TTI/FHWA contracts were advanced.
- 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 and/or pooled fund TAC meeting related meeting incorporated with ICOET. He notified the TAC for the pooled fund that this may occur.
- Discussions about potential projects of interest to the pooled fund members were held.

**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 contact time completed (88%)). Knapp will ask TTI to request a no-cost extension to the existing contracts in the next quarter from March 2009 to December 2009. Research contracts have not yet been let.

**Work Next Quarter (January to March 2009):**

- An extension to the current contracts is needed. TTI has been asked (January 2009) to request an extension to December 31, 2009. Due to the year delay in work, this extension is needed to complete the work under the current contracts. Some updates will be identified (see below) in the next quarter.
- UMN can now charge work. The objective in the next quarter is to identify website updates, literature/data updates, annual meeting, and develop a method with FHWA to release the RFPs. Some updates will be completed if possible before the current contract end date of March 18, 2009. A review of what UMN can do for the amount of funding now available as subcontracts will need to be determined.
- Desirably, FHWA releases an RFP on at least one of the research projects. The administration and review of responses, tracking, etc. with pooled fund can now be completed at UMN (once the RFPs are released).
- Planning, etc. for the TAC meeting connected to ICOET in Duluth, MN can occur and what can occur related to the meeting with the current administrative budget will need to occur. This meeting will be the last one to occur under the current contracts if an extension occurs. If the extension is not granted, this meeting will not occur.

**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 by about a year. All tasks completed and described in the quarterly reports from January to December 2008 were on a voluntary basis by all involved.
- 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 RFPs for these projects need to be released through FHWA.
- An extension to the current contracts needs to occur for the completion of the tasks described above for the next quarter and those in the workplan.

