**Road Ecology Research and Outreach: Final Report**

**Task Order 1: International Conference on Ecology and Transportation Pooled Fund**

**PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE**

All work will be completed on or before December 31, 2023, and the conference is complete.

**TECHNICAL POINTS OF CONTACT**

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Conference Summary

The conference from June 4-8, 2023, in Burlington, Vermont was highly successful, drawing 354 attendees in person and an additional 139 virtual. The attendees were from 44 US states and 18 countries, including 29 students. There were over 223 podium, poster, and panel presentations, and 6 field trips.

Funding for the conference was from a combination of registration fees ($217,000 gross), private sponsors ($23,000), and the Pooled Fund Study ($64,000). The lack of federal funding and lower than normal private sponsorship made the Pooled Fund contribution that much more important. Without it, registration fees would have been ~25% higher.

The conference agenda and abstracts were shared through the primary ICOET website: <https://icoet.net>. The program, including live video links for pre-recorded material was shared with registrants through Canva, a software package suitable for sharing programs with live links: <https://icoet.net/sites/default/files/2023-06/ICOET_Program_2023.pdf>. The pre-recorded presentations are also linked in the icoet.net website, and are available here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLn646vGvlHI0BdRTNCONAMlvlDc75TPN5>.

All registered participants were emailed a survey link after the conference and asked for feedback. This is normal for the conference, though some of the questions related to the virtual conference. As expressed in narrative form in the 2023 survey, the level of satisfaction was similar for 2023 as for the last in-person conference (2019). Also as before, field trips remain a very popular feature of the conference and this year’s were no exception. The majority of negative comments were about the virtual experience, which has been identified as primarily a technical problem in the rooms where moderators had minimal responsibility with sharing screen, etc. The 2025 conference will have more dedicated technical staff to improve the virtual participants’ experience. The table below summarizes some of the survey results.

