TRANSPORTATION POOLED FUND PROGRAM
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Lead Agency (FHWA or State DOT): Oklahoma 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.

Transportation Pooled Fund Program Project # *(i.e, SPR-2(XXX), SPR-3(XXX) or TPF-5(XXX)* TPF-5(442)		**Transportation Pooled Fund Program - Report Period:** ☐ Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31) ☐ Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30) ☑ Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30) ☐ Quarter 4 (October 1 – December 31)
Project Title: Transportation Research and Connectivity		
Name of Project Manager(s): Michael Molina, Musharraf Zaman	**Phone Number:** 405-325-5960	**E-Mail** mmolina@ou.edu, zaman@ou.edu
Lead Agency Project ID: TPF-5(442)	**Other Project ID (i.e., contract #):**	**Project Start Date:** April 27, 2020
Original Project End Date: February 28, 2023	**Current Project End Date:** February 28, 2025	**Number of Extensions:** 1

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
$1,015,000	$335,637.49	96%

Quarterly Project Statistics:

Total Project Expenses and Percentage This Quarter	Total Amount of Funds Expended This Quarter	Total Percentage of Time Used to Date
$19,102.69	$19,102.69	82%

Project Description:

DOT employees operate in an increasingly digital and data-driven environment, and it is critical that they have access to reliable, relevant information. Working in the digital realm does not always guarantee access to complete and credible information. Many important resources are not yet digitized nor easily accessible due to a lack of proper knowledge management. Transportation researchers and knowledge resource professionals are in a unique position to aid staff in their organizations. They will not only meet staff information needs but also provide guidelines and standards to enable and expand the curation of digital and physical documents, increasing the operational efficiency of the DOT. For example, many transportation workers view Google as the only resource they need to locate information. But with Google searches often yielding unquantifiable and uninterpreted amounts of data, workers are left unsure if they have the best material available. Similarly, state DOTs contain vast troves of documents, from research reports to policies and procedures on a number of topics. Librarians assist in organizing and curating these materials, making the information accessible and usable for transportation professionals.

Unfortunately, some state DOTs have closed their libraries or cut back on funding. Librarians found themselves having to make do with limited resources, while still committed to delivering high-value content. To that end, transportation librarians created the Transportation Library Connectivity Pooled Fund studies, TPF-5(105) and TPF-5(237). The first Transportation Library Connectivity Pooled Fund study began in 2011 with 11 members from nine states; by the end of the second study in 2015, membership stood at 22 members from 23 states. The studies supported collaborative library development and enhancing existing efforts to develop a national transportation information infrastructure using Transportation Knowledge Networks (TKNs). The studies also facilitated coordination among federal, state, academic, and private sector libraries, providing a number of resources for its members. These resources included funding for members to travel to conferences, hosting annual meetings, conducting workshops, implementation of research projects, pooled subscriptions to online databases, and more. The project helped bring transportation organizations into a nationwide collaboration that proved exceedingly valuable for libraries and their stakeholders. The study generated much

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

Michael continued to work with pooled fund members on their digitization requests.

Michael continued to work with CTC on Section 508 remediation reports for multiple states including South Dakota and New York.

Working group members reviewed the draft Section 508 Accessibility guidance and provided feedback. The items included:

508-Compliant Research Report Template
Guidelines for Preparing 508-Compliant Reports
Sample Contract Language for Researcher Compliance with Section 508
Section 508 Accessibility Guidance

Final drafts were approved and posted on the pooled fund website here:
https://transportation.libguides.com/c.php?g=1028270&p=7596790

Michael worked with members to provide travel funding for SLA and the AASHTO RAC conference. Michael and several other pooled fund members attended the meeting and discussed additional activities the group could pursue during the remaining two fiscal years of the project.

Michael hosted the Summer/Fall pooled fund meeting update, where pooled fund members met virtually to hear progress updates as well as discuss next steps for the pooled fund for FY 2024 and 2025. Activities for the next fiscal year will

Anticipated work next quarter:

Work with pooled fund members on the digitization objective.

Work with members on Section 508.

Prepare draft budget and itemized lists of objectives for the remaining two years of the pooled fund.

Schedule meetings with pooled fund members to review progress and answer any questions they may have.

Significant Results:

Finalized and posted Section 508 guidance documents to the pooled fund website.

Finalized all original goals and objectives of the pooled fund.

Continued digitization of member materials.

Posted completed items to Pooled Fund LibGuide website.

Conduct a Summer/Fall meeting for pooled fund members to provide updates on project status and solicit ideas for activities during the next quarter.

Funded travel for members to travel to the AASHTO-RAC meeting.

Answered pooled fund members' questions over a variety of topics, including specific needs from members relating to pooled fund objectives.

Planned for future pooled fund objectives.

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).

As the project moves into a new phase, member engagement will remain important. As the pooled fund works with CTC, meetings will be held where members will need to be present to yield the best results.

Potential Implementation:

All materials created from the pooled fund will be stored with the National Transportation Library and the National Transportation Knowledge Network for broad dissemination. The toolkit for non-librarians will be especially useful for other DOTs when learning about managing their own knowledge resources.