

Deer-Vehicle Crash Information and Research Center (DVCIR Center)
RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING: March 31, 2009

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) Extension Approved: 3/19/10 (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. Committed funds (per www.pooledfund.org) currently total \$330,000 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 and \$20,000 has been committed by CT and MD, respectively, and \$25,000 added by NH and TX. A total of \$50,000 in match funds is also being pursued from FHWA. Potential second year funds for participation from several states in year two of the project could total about \$35,000.

Two 2-year contracts (now extended to March 19, 2010), 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 have been negotiated between TTI and the University of Minnesota (UMN) and were completed in the first quarter of 2009. A no-cost extension to the contract (to account for the last year of no charging) was finalized in March 2009. The contract has been extended to March 2010. Contracts for the completion of the research portion of the project with the remaining available funds (\$200,000 with the potential for another \$35,000) will follow in individual research contracts. The kick-off meeting for the pooled fund was January 30, 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 January 1 and March 31, 2009:

- Negotiations between TTI and UMN were completed in late December 2008. Internal paperwork was finalized. Charges to the project from UMN were started upon finalization.
- Paperwork and negotiations were started for a no-cost extension to the current contracts. The extension to March 2010 was granted by FHWA in March 2009.
- A student assistant position was advertised for the DVC project contracts when the extension was approved.
- Knapp has continued to respond to media requests and state DOT requests about the subject.
- A request for updated state DVC data was sent to the participating states and is being pursued.
- Negotiations with the ICOET 2009 (Duluth) planning committee resulted in the scheduling of the meeting for Tuesday, September 15, 2009 from 5 or 5:30 to 10 PM for the DVCIR Center annual meeting of the technical advisory committee (TAC). The ICOET meeting runs from September 14-17, 2010. Knapp may present a poster on the DVC activities.
- A conference call was held and it was decided that the requests for research proposals will be completed through the FHWA IDIQ process.
- The paperwork required to meet federal regulations on this type of advertisement have been started.

Approximate Percentage of Project Complete: Approx. 32% of the budget has been spent from the \$130,000 administrative contracts (out of \$330,000 committed). Approx. \$3,732 in funds were spent this quarter, but additional charges for this quarter are expected to be in the accounting systems soon. A no-cost extension of 12 months (to March 2010) has also been approved. Therefore, 32% of the funds have been spent, but about 34% percent of what is now a 3-year contract remains (through the end of the quarter). Research contracts have not been let.

Work Next Quarter (April to June 2009):

- Charges to the project will be adjusted in the accounting systems to more appropriately represent the expenditure situation.
- The paperwork required to meet federal requirements to release the research RFPs will be completed.
- FHWA releases the RFPs after all necessary requirements and approvals are met.
- DVC data from the participating states (in addition to IL and MI) are collected, updated, and posted. Summaries of new literature in the DVC reduction subject area (since 2004/2005) will be started.
- Plans for the September annual meeting will be finalized.

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 generally on a voluntary basis by all involved.
- The RFPs for the projects need to be released through FHWA and meet all federal requirements for that to occur. The necessary approvals must also be acquired. This process has begun but will take some time.
- Hiring student assistance for Knapp was not possible until the no-cost extension was approved in March 2009. This person should be available for work by May 2009. This assistance will be available until the end of the contracts in March 2010.

