TRANSPORTATION POOLED FUND PROGRAM
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Lead Agency (FHWA or State DOT): Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

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(536)		**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: Southeast Transportation Consortium - Phase II		
Name of Project Manager(s): Tyson Rupnow	**Phone Number:** 225-767-9124	**E-Mail** tyson.rupnow@la.gov
Lead Agency Project ID: TPF-5(536)	**Other Project ID (i.e., contract #):** N/A	**Project Start Date:** 1/1/2025
Original Project End Date: 06/30/2025	**Current Project End Date:** 06/30/2026	**Number of Extensions:** 0

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
$500,000.00	$0	0

Quarterly Project Statistics:

Total Project Expenses and Percentage This Quarter	Total Amount of Funds Expended This Quarter	Total Percentage of Time Used to Date
$0	$0	0

Project Description:

In 2011, raising the profile and stature of transportation research became a major theme during meetings of the TRB Technical Activities Council, the TRB standing committees on Conduct of Research and Technology Transfer, and the summer meeting of the AASHTO RAC/TRB state representatives. It quickly became established that a standardization of transportation research management was needed.

Discussions among TRB staff and volunteers led to recommend a program that in 2012 that came to be known as "Ahead of the Curve (AOTC) Mastering the Management of Transportation Research and Innovation."

The mission of the initiative was 'to develop and deliver a TRB program that enhances the knowledge, skills and abilities of managers of transportation research programs and those responsible for innovation in a coordinated manner and on a continuing basis. An article in the January-February 2020 issue of TR News describes the evolution and benefits of this program.

The AOTC Program is comprised of four required core courses that are built upon the research cycle and twelve more subject detailed electives presented through webinar format. Below is a list of the required core courses and descriptions:

1. Making Research Relevant – This is an overview course designed to provide basic understanding of the importance and value of research, types of research, the research life cycle, stakeholders typically involved in transportation research (i.e. state DOTS, universities).
2. Running a Research Program – This course provides students with the nuts and bolts of how to run a transportation research program. Student will learn about establishing and facilitating oversight committees, soliciting research ideas, managing deliverables, tracking and monitoring the program, working with principal investigators, reviewing proposals, contracting, research results and dissemination.

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

Project moved from solicitation to TPF and assigned a number. LADOTD is accepting fund transfers at this time.

Progress on a charge line item from LADOTD is still in progress. While waiting for a line item to obligate the State Fund Transfers to, LTRC is in the process of setting up a kick-off meeting for this quarter to beheld in Mid-November.

Anticipated work next quarter:

Have / conduct a kick-off meeting and select a contractor for updating all the AOTC materials.
Discuss any additional modules to be developed and included in the AOTC course listing; specifically AI and/or 508 compliance.
Select a contractor.

Significant Results:

N/A

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).

LTRC's inability to get assigned a project number from DOTD is significantly affecting the forward progress of this project. LTRC has been actively requesting and providing required information as necessary to get a dedicated project nubmer, but the process is painfully slow. LTRC hopes that a project number will be issued prior to January 1, 2025 such that the project can get under contract on or near the first of the year.

Potential Implementation:

The major benefit of this study will be to provide a self-study version of AOTC for AASHTO RAC members / State DOT research personnel. This is important in that these RAC members are continually changing and a self-study format will provide the best opportunity for these members to get “Ahead of the learning Curve” when taking on the unique responsibilities of being a research manager.

A secondary benefit will be a comprehensive, up-to-date resource for new and existing research managers with state DOTs.