



QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

March 31, 2005

Pooled Fund Project: TPF-5(092)

Title: Test and Evaluation of Materials, Equipment and Methods for Winter Highway Maintenance

Web site: <http://www.clearroads.org>

Project Description

Clear Roads is a pooled fund research project aimed at rigorous testing of winter maintenance materials, equipment and methods for use by highway maintenance crews. Created by seasoned winter maintenance engineers in 2004, Clear Roads responds to a need for research based on practical experience. By conducting structured field testing and evaluation across a range of winter conditions and highway maintenance organizational structures, Clear Roads projects will deliver immediately useful data and recommendations on the effectiveness, ease of use, optimum application rates, durability, and more, of many advanced winter operations technologies.

Activity This Quarter

Meetings

The Clear Roads Technical Advisory Committee met three times:

- January 4, 2005 (conference call)—score RFPs and select administrator for pooled fund
- February 16 and 17, 2005 (Minneapolis, Minnesota)—propose and discuss new research projects
- March 24, 2005 (conference call)—discuss draft RFPs and administrative documents

Administration

Clear Roads, through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, signed a contract with CTC & Associates LLC to administer the activities of this pooled fund in 2005. Work under this contract this quarter included meeting planning (agendas, minutes, logistics), communications, Web site updates, RFP development and marketing.

Research Projects

At the February TAC meeting, the group discussed more than 10 proposed research projects and selected three of them to move forward in the RFP process:

- Calibration of Ground-Speed-Controlled Salters
- Assessment of Windshield Anti-fogging/Anti-frosting Practices for Winter Maintenance Vehicles
- FAST Bridge Systems (survey of use and performance)

In March, it became clear that Colorado was already well underway in pursuing a project very similar to the proposed project on FAST bridge systems. The TAC decided to drop that project and instead fund an expanded version of the study on ground speed controllers. Work continued through the end of March on the RFPs.

Work Next Quarter

- Complete and post RFPs for the two research projects
- Update Clear Roads brochure and Web site
- Plan for summer meeting in June or July
- Begin work on NCHRP problem statements to be submitted by Clear Roads
- Continue recruitment and marketing efforts

Membership

Michigan joined the Clear Roads pooled fund this quarter, bringing the number of member organizations up to six. Below are the current TAC representatives from each of the six member states.

- Tom Martinelli, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Committee Chair
- Dennis Burkheimer, Iowa Department of Transportation
- Benjamin Zwart, Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Timothy Jackson, Missouri Department of Transportation
- Dennis Belter, Indiana Department of Transportation
- Tim Croze, Michigan Department of Transportation

Budget

Available funds

Funds committed to date:	\$325,000
Funds obligated to date:	\$225,000
Total available funds by 12/05:	\$325,000

Estimated expenses for 2005

Administrative contract for 2005:	\$29,000
<u>Estimated travel and supplies expenses for '04/'05:</u>	<u>\$17,000</u>
Total estimated expenses for 2005:	\$46,000

Actual expenses to date

Clear Roads August 2004 Meeting (travel, meeting room)	\$479.92
Ben Zwart attendance at PNS Corrosion Forum	\$868.58
<u>Clear Roads February TAC Meeting</u>	<u>\$3,447.30</u>
Total expenses to date	\$4,795.80

Estimated funds available for research projects

\$325,000 (obligated by 12/31/05) - \$46,000 (estimated expenses) = **\$279,000***

*Available funds include the \$25,000 that Michigan contributed through the Winter Concept Vehicle pooled fund. This portion is not available for all Clear Roads projects—only those specifically related to snow plow design and technology.