



North/West Passage
Transportation Pooled Fund Study
TPF-5(190)
Q2 2009 Status Report
April 1 – June 30, 2009

Project Description

The North/West Passage Transportation Pooled Fund (TPF) Study is a multi-state cooperative program for the coordination, development, and deployment of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) along the I-90 and I-94 corridor. The states of Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin began meeting in February 2002 to discuss the development of a North/West Passage multi-state transportation program. The states formally established as a TPF Study through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in 2003. FHWA serves as a monitoring body, providing strategic and technical input. Minnesota serves as the Program Administrator and a Steering Committee consists of one representative from each of the states that have financially contributed to the effort. The Steering Committee meets monthly or as necessary to provide overall program direction.

North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin contributed funding for the execution of a Phase 1 work plan. The Phase 1 work plan included eight projects, the purpose of which was to implement and evaluate integrated traveler information systems and coordinate maintenance operations across state borders. Individual reports for the projects completed under the Phase 1 work plan are available online at www.nwpassage.info. A full Phase 1 summary report is also available online.

Additional contributions have since been made by all of the states for the execution of a Phase 2 work plan, which focused on developing a strategic plan for the corridor. Focusing on traveler information and maintenance operations, the plan presents an inventory of ITS deployments in the corridor; provides a high-level architecture; analyzes targeted concepts/solutions; and, proposes a coordinated deployment and operational concept for traveler information systems and maintenance operations across state borders. The Steering Committee elected to wait until the strategic plan is further developed before identifying a more complete list of projects for further implementation in the corridor.

The balance of funds contributed during the Phase 2 solicitation has been applied to a Phase 3 work plan. The Phase 3 work plan includes five projects that focus on continuing to develop, expand implementation, and evaluate integrated traveler information systems. The projects also continue the understanding and development of coordinated maintenance operations across state borders.

A Phase 4 work plan has been approved and five projects are moving forward. Projects include enhancing the traveler information website (www.i90i94travelinfo.com), researching call forwarding between states, and exploring regional permitting for the corridor as well as detailing center to center communications between states.

Status/Progress This Quarter

Phase 4 Work Plan Projects

- **Project 4.1: North/West Passage Travel Information Website – Phase 2 and Project 4.3 Center to Center Communications Concept of Operations**

The intent of Project 4.1 is to:

- *Develop a ConOps for a second generation corridor-wide traveler information website that builds upon the currently operational website (i90i94travelinfo.com); adding the*

ability to acquire active event reports posted by member agencies and display active corridor events.

- *Design and implement the second generation website based on the ConOps.*
- *Develop a Concept of Operations for event report sharing between states to guide future data exchanges among member agencies. For example, some member states may wish to exchange event reports between states in order to populate their condition reporting system with events from neighboring states.*

The final Request for Proposal (RFP) was approved for distribution.

- Project 4.2: Call Forwarding and Evaluation of Cross Border Information Requests
The goal of Project 4.2 is to offer a short-term, easily deployed solution for making corridor-wide 511 traveler information available to callers at any location along the corridor using call forwarding options among member states.

A final report for this project was approved that outlined the current status of 511 access to adjacent state's information and the options each North/West Passage state has with their current systems as well as includes a set of recommendations for moving forward with implementation. The final report can be found at: <http://www.nwpassage.info/projects/phase4/proj2/>

- Project 4.4: North/West Passage Regional Permitting
The ultimate vision is that Project 4.4 will allow the North/West Passage member states to begin development on a system that one day will allow commercial vehicle carriers to obtain basic oversize/overweight permits for the entire North/West Passage Corridor at a 'one-stop-shop'.

The RFP for Project 4.4 was posted on the Minnesota DOT's contracting website and proposals were received on June 24, 2009.

- Project 4.5: Expanded Corridor-Wide Truck Parking Facilities
The goal of Project 4.5 is to provide the information necessary for states to consider expanding short term truck parking availability in the locations where it is needed most along the I-90 and I-94 corridor from Washington to Wisconsin.

Athey Creek summarized current parking facility efforts in order to not duplicate efforts.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee provides overall program direction. The committee held three teleconference meetings during the 2nd Quarter. The following bullets summarize the meeting discussions.

- Steering Committee Meeting on April 21, 2009
A Steering Committee Meeting was held on April 21, 2009. The primary focus of this meeting was to discuss developing RFP's for the Work Plan 4 projects. The group also reviewed and approved the Summary of Results document for Project 4.2: Call Forwarding and Cross Border Information Requests.
- Steering Committee Meeting on May 19, 2009
A Steering Committee Meeting was held on May 19, 2009. The primary focus of this meeting was to discuss the preparing an unsolicited proposal to request funds to support recommendations

outlined in the Project 4.2 Summary of Results document. The group also reviewed and approved a 511 Brochure and Program Brochure.

- Steering Committee Annual Meeting on June 16, 2009
A Steering Committee Meeting was held on June 16, 2009. The primary focus of this meeting was to provide updates on the Work Plan 4 projects and begin discussions on Work Plan 5. The group also developed a letter of support for a project submitted by the Western Transportation Institute focusing on evaluating the concept of an in-vehicle display to convey risk information about identified hazards in the traffic environment and recommend a safe response.

Status/Progress Anticipated Next Quarter

- Steering Committee Meetings in July, August, and September and evaluation meeting of the Project 4.4 Proposals
- Project 4.1: North/West Passage Travel Information Website – Phase 2 and Project 4.3 Center to Center Communications Concept of Operations
Post the Project 4.1/4.3 RFP on Mn/DOT's website.
- Project 4.2: Call Forwarding and Evaluation of Cross Border Information Requests
Prepare a funding request to the USDOT to continue efforts initiated from the recommendations of Project 4.2.
- Project 4.4: North/West Passage Regional Permitting
Select Project 4.4 consultant.
- Project 4.5: Expanded Corridor-Wide Truck Parking Facilities
Revise Project 4.5 Scope of Work.

Work Plan 1 Financial Summary

The following commitments were made during the Phase 1 solicitation.

- North Dakota \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Minnesota \$50,000 (SP&R Dollars), plus \$102,576 (State funds)
- Wisconsin \$25,000 (80/20 I-90/94 Earmark Dollars)

Work Plan 2 and 3 Financial Summary

The eight states in the corridor committed \$450,000 through a solicitation. Following is a summary of the financial contributions by individual members. Because funding is comprised of various state and federal sources, FMIS will track SP&R dollars and Mn/DOT administered and tracked other state and federal dollars through partnership agreements with the corresponding states.

- Idaho \$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)
- Minnesota \$150,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Montana \$25,000 (Source Unknown)
- North Dakota \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- South Dakota \$50,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Washington \$50,000 (State Dollars)

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- Wisconsin \$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)
- Wyoming \$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)

Work Plan 4 Financial Summary

The eight states in the corridor committed \$200,000 through a solicitation. Following is a summary of the financial contributions by individual members. Because funding is comprised of various state and federal sources, FMIS will track SP&R dollars and Mn/DOT administered and tracked other state and federal dollars through partnership agreements with the corresponding states.

- Idaho \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Minnesota \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Montana \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- North Dakota \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- South Dakota \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Washington \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Wisconsin \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Wyoming \$25,000 (Federal and State Dollars)

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Submitted: July 14, 2009