

TRANSPORTATION POOLED FUND PROGRAM QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Lead Agency (FHWA or State DOT): Washington State 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>(i.e, SPR-2(XXX), SPR-3(XXX) or TPF-5(XXX))</i> <p style="text-align: center;">TPF-5(494)</p>	Transportation Pooled Fund Program - Report Period: <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31) <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30) <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarter 4 (October 1 – December 31)	
Project Title: <p style="text-align: center;">Western States Rural Transportation Consortium (WSRTC) (Phase 2)</p>		
Name of Project Manager(s): <p style="text-align: center;">Tony Leingang</p>	Phone Number: <p style="text-align: center;">360-709-8002</p>	E-Mail <p style="text-align: center;">Tony.Leingang@wsdot.wa.gov</p>
Lead Agency Project ID: <p style="text-align: center;">TPF5494</p>	Other Project ID (i.e., contract #): <p style="text-align: center;">N/A</p>	Project Start Date: <p style="text-align: center;">January 31, 2022</p>
Original Project End Date: <p style="text-align: center;">March 31, 2027</p>	Current Project End Date: <p style="text-align: center;">March 31, 2027</p>	Number of Extensions: <p style="text-align: center;">0</p>

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
\$856,971.00	\$649,015.68	75.73%

Quarterly Project Statistics:

Total Project Expenses and Percentage This Quarter	Total Amount of Funds Expended This Quarter	Total Percentage of Time Used to Date
	\$40,725.76	75.73%

Project Description:

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The Western States Rural Transportation Consortium (WSRTC) was established with the following mission, vision and goals:

Mission

The WSRTC shall provide a collaborative mechanism to leverage research activities in a coordinated manner to respond to rural transportation issues among western states related to Technology, Operations and Safety.

Vision

The WSRTC shall promote innovative partnerships, technologies and educational opportunities to facilitate and enhance safe, seamless rural travel throughout the western United States.

Goals

- Provide a framework to leverage research and promote collaboration in solving rural transportation issues.
- To leverage research resources related to rural issues concerning technology, operations and safety.
- Provide technology solutions in the form of technology transfer to rural areas and training on a regular basis.
- Recycle and reuse existing research, applying its results to rural issues.
- Development of a rural western states integrated corridor management system to improve seamless, coordinated and safe transportation to the public.

Project work is assigned via task order, and 5 task orders have been executed in Phase 2 of the pooled fund through the end of this quarter:

- WTI Task Order #2 - WSRTC Meeting Coordination, Western States Forum Travel Support and Website Maintenance (\$110,000). This task order concluded 6/30/2024.
- WTI Task Order #6 - WSRTC Meeting Coordination, Western States Forum Travel Support and Website Maintenance (\$121,977).
- Montana Tech Task Order #2 - Chain-Up Delay Tracking and Estimation (\$125,000).

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

WTI Phase 2, Task Order #6 - WSRTC Meeting Coordination, Western States Forum Travel Support and Website Maintenance

Task 1: Project Management

Commitments and obligations to the Pooled Fund were discussed. The WSRTC Charter document was edited and reviewed. A final travel reimbursement request for NRITS/ITE was received, processed, and disbursed. A balance spreadsheet of project expenditures was updated.

Task 2: Western States Forum Support

Planning and coordination for the 20th Annual Forum continued this quarter. A Save the Date postcard was distributed mid-quarter via mail and email. The Call for Abstracts was released via mail and email. The contact list was updated after each mailing / messaging. Caterers for all meals were approved. The Forum website was updated with a Save the Date and the Call for Abstracts for the 2025 Forum. Several venue options were investigated (meeting space, lodging, location, cost, catering, etc.). The Best Western Miners Inn was ultimately secured for the 2025 Forum. A lodging block was established.

Task 3: Meeting Planning and Coordination

The last travel reimbursement request for the 2024 NRITS / ITE Meeting was received, processed, and disbursed.

Task 4: Website Content and Maintenance

An update for the WSF project pages on the WSRTC website was prepared and posted – WSRTTIF: 19th Annual Forum

Anticipated work next quarter:

WTI Phase 2 Task Order 6: WSRTC Meeting Coordination, Western States Forum, Website Maintenance

Task 1: Project Management

Project management discussions will be held including budgeting and executing future task orders within the Pooled Fund. The WSRTC and Forum fact sheets will be updated. A balance spreadsheet of expenditures will also be updated.

The WSRTC Charter document will be edited, reviewed, finalized, and sent for signatures.

Task 2: Western States Forum Support

The final report for the 2024 Western States Forum will be completed, sent for review, and finalized. The Forum website will be further updated with images from the event. The impact page will also be updated as needed.

Abstracts for the 2025 Forum will be due mid-January. The Steering Committee will review the submissions, make selections, and send notification regarding acceptance of abstracts. First drafts of presentations will be due in March. The Steering Committee will review the drafts and send feedback to the speakers. Registration will open in early March as well. The project team will prepare a registration brochure to be printed and mailed. Another version will be prepared for electronic sharing. The registration page on Eventbrite will be developed and the Forum website updated with current information including registration and lodging details and instructions.

Contracts for the caterers and the event planners will be reviewed and approved by Procurement, signed, and deposits paid. The invitation and contact list will be updated.

**Significant Results:****MSU:**

The dates for the 2025 Western States Forum were announced with the distribution of a Save the Date postcard.

The Call for Abstracts for the 2025 Western States Forum was released.

One travel reimbursement request was received, reviewed, processed, and disbursed.

The Forum and Consortium websites were updated.

Montana Tech:

Work continued on the Chain-Up Delay Tracking and Estimation project, and data collection continued overlapping with some bad weather and several chain-up events at Fawndale

UC Davis:

The key achievement for Q2-25 was identifying some of the causes behind the major issues and determining expected solutions. First, the backup battery issue was found to not be caused by the battery itself, but by the placement of the aluminum drive train motor. This issue can be resolved by installing an isolated component to prevent the drivetrain motor from interfering with the temperature reading. Second, the Remote ID issue was traced back to the code logic, which must strictly adhere to FAA Remote ID rules (as detailed in the quarterly report). Fotokite needs to obtain approvals before any changes to the code logic can be made, and they are currently in the process of securing these approvals. Lastly, the premature landing issue was caused by the motor corrupting the temperature readings, making the system incorrectly believe the battery was too hot. A software improvement can be implemented to achieve more accurate temperature readings, preventing unnecessary landings.

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).

Winter was mild last year in Northern California. As a result, there were relatively few chain-up events at Fawndale. The situation will be monitored in conjunction with the Chain-Up Delay Estimation project. Data quality issues were discovered last quarter and will continue to be investigated further in the subsequent quarter.

Potential Implementation:

Tech Transfer and prospective implementation is anticipated from round-table discussions and affiliation with the Western States Forum.

Chain-Up Delay Tracking and Estimation is planned for ongoing research and development and subsequent implementation.