

TRANSPORTATION POOLED FUND PROGRAM QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Lead Agency (FHWA or State DOT): IOWA DOT

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 # TPF-5(543)	Transportation Pooled Fund Program - Report Period: X Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31) Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30) Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30) Quarter 4 (October 4 – December 31)	
Project Title: Aurora Program		
Project Manager: Tina Greenfield	Phone:	E-mail:
Project Investigator: Zach Hans	Phone:	E-mail:
Lead Agency Project ID:	Other Project ID (i.e., contract #): Addendum	Project Start Date:
Original Project End Date: January 1, 2025	Project End Date: December 31, 2025	Number of Extensions:

☒ On schedule
 ☐ On revised schedule
 ☐ Ahead of schedule
 ☐ Behind schedule

Overall Project Statistics:

Total Project Budget	Total Cost to Date for Project	Total Percentage of Work Completed
\$500,000	\$27,461	%

Quarterly Project Statistics:

Total Project Expenses This Quarter	Total Amount of Funds Expended This Quarter	Percentage of Work Completed This Quarter
\$27,461		%

Project Description:

The Aurora Program is a consortium of public agencies focused on collaborative research, evaluation, and deployment of technologies for detailed road weather monitoring and forecasting. Members seek to implement advanced road weather information systems (RWIS) that fully integrate state-of-the-art roadway and weather forecasting technologies with coordinated, multi-agency weather monitoring infrastructures; ultimately lessening adverse impacts of inclement weather.

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

Program Administrative Activities:

Reviewed financial details.

Managed the Aurora website. Coordinated with InTrans publications group regarding access. An ongoing task is to finalize the RFP and specifications page.

Managed the Aurora email list. This included changing and updating representatives and alternates, including Missouri DOT.

Prepared Aurora updates for TRB committees.

Coordinated with TPF-5(435) member states regarding commitments for current pooled fund. Shared information as requested. This was in part to ensure funding for Spring 2025 meeting.

Tracked commitments for TPF-5(534).

Distributed calendar invitations for monthly meetings for 2025.

Distributed survey regarding Spring 2025 meeting and rescheduled based on member availability.

Shared webinar invitation from FOA Vizzion with Aurora Board.

Shared project champion and team members for selected projects.

Shared question from Illinois DOT regarding current plow techniques and standards with Aurora, Clear Roads and and snow/ice AASHTO representative. Feedback was provided by several agencies.

Distributed calendar invitation for Fall joint meeting with Clear Roads and AASHTO.

Shared Aurora vision, mission, goals/objectives and project areas of interest with Iowa DOT.

Certified equipment for previous noninvasive sensor project.

Shared Aurora outreach presentation with Michigan DOT for an upcoming Transpocon with the MDOT research group. Also shared information for “Real User Friction for Winter Maintenance Operation and Evaluation” with Nira Dynamics.

Coordinated with Iowa DOT regarding draft proposal: “Collaboration at Work” Communication Products for Aurora Pooled Fund Study TPF-5(543).

Addressed request for a virtual panel member at North America Snow Conference 2025, focusing on use of data and AI in transportation practices, especially winter maintenance.

Responded to request to serve as a panelist for 2025 Joint AMS Washington Forum/Summer Community Meeting. Several factors hindered participation.

Responded to request for virtual Aurora update for 6th National Winter Maintenance and Road Weather Briefing. InTrans will prepare the presentation, and Mike Chapman (chair) will provide the update.

Addressed question from Arizona regarding joint fall meeting.

Facilitate Meetings and Conference Calls:

A primary meeting-related activity this quarter was organizing the Spring 2025 meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. This included the following.

- Finalized arrangements with venue.
- Distributed survey regarding Spring 2025 meeting and rescheduled based on member availability.

- Prepared draft agenda.
- Prepared and distributed draft agenda.
- Continued meeting planning.
- Shared additional information with Board regarding travel scheduling requirements.
- Arranged travel for members (processed travel requests).
- Rented cars for travel during meetings.

Held monthly meetings.

- January 2025
 - Meetings
 - Fall 2024 - Minutes
 - Spring 2025 Considerations <https://whenisgood.net/b38r5dd>
 - Week of May 12, Anchorage, AK - Meeting space limited
 - Week of May 12, Anchorage, AK - Alternate hotel
 - Week of May 5, Anchorage, AK - Same hotel
 - Fall 2025 Joint Meeting – Week of Sept. 15, TBD
 - Monthly Meeting Time
 - Aurora Program (2025-2029) TPF-5(543)
 - 2025 Idea Solicitation
 - Remaining 2020 – 2024 funds
 - FOA Engagement Ideas
 - TRB 2025
 - Winter Maintenance Committee
 - Road Weather Committee
 - Project Updates
 - 2022-10 Automating Variable Speed Limits (VSL) Using Weather, Traffic, and Friction Data – No cost extension to 7/31/2025
 - 2023-04 Standardized Framework for Winter Weather Road Condition Indices - Feedback
- February 2025
 - Meetings
 - Spring 2025
 - Week of May 5, Anchorage, AK
 - Draft Agenda
 - Travel
 - Fall 2025 Joint Meeting
 - Week of September 15, Bloomington, MN
 - Aurora Program (2025-2029) TPF-5(543)
 - 2025 Idea Solicitation
 - Current Plow Techniques and Standards
 - Project Updates
 - 2022-10 Automating Variable Speed Limits (VSL) Using Weather, Traffic, and Friction Data – Feedback
 - 2023-04 Standardized Framework for Winter Weather Road Condition Indices – Feedback
- March 2025
 - Meetings
 - Spring 2025 - Week of May 5, Anchorage, AK
 - Fall 2025 Joint Meeting - Week of September 15, Bloomington, MN
 - 2025 Project Ideas
 - Select Ideas to Promote to Proposals
 - Project Updates
 - 2023-04 Standardized Framework for Winter Weather Road Condition Indices – Feedback

Project-Specific Activities:

Prepared idea solicitation and shared with past and current researchers as well as other who have submitted ideas. Shared also with Aurora members, FOA, Iowa DOT SPR engineer (for distribution to peers).

Received 44 ideas..

Prepared idea ranking spreadsheet, which included assigning categories, integrating objective, cost and time and submitting research team.

Distributed idea ranking spreadsheet, tallied results and facilitated meeting in which Board identified projects for advancing to proposal stage. Updated composite rankings with outstanding member votes.

Contacted research teams for seven ideas and requested proposals.

Contacted research teams for ideas not advanced to proposal stage.

Addressed periodic questions for research teams, both those submitting proposals and remaining teams.

Anticipated work next quarter:

Continue Aurora website updates.

Manage budget.

Update the Aurora Charter, Work Plan and Associate Members, as needed.

Address requests, as needed.

Spring 2025 Meeting

- Finalize agenda.
- Continue to processing travel request.
- Hold and manage meeting.
- Process travel reimbursements and meeting expenses:

Fall 2025 Meeting

- Coordinate with Clear Roads and AASHTO regarding 2025 joint meeting.
- Continue working with venue

Facilitate Meetings and Conference Calls

Manage Friends of Aurora.

Finalize RFP and specifications webpage.

Continue monthly Board meeting calls to generate research ideas, discuss important issues and have vendor presentations.

Schedule and host project meetings for existing and new projects.

Invite Friends of Aurora presentations during monthly meetings, as appropriate.

Project-Specific Activities:

Facilitate project selection at Spring 2025 meeting.

Schedule and host project meetings for new project(s).

Coordinate with Iowa DOT regarding selected projects and contracting.

Track project status and timelines.

Request quarterly reports from research teams.

Distribute project materials/updates to project teams.

Maintain list of project champions and team members.

For all current projects:

- Facilitate project activities as needed.
- Continue to receive and distribute project updates.
- Coordinate updates, if necessary.
- Review invoices.
- Edit and publish pertinent final reports and t2.

Circumstance affecting project or budget:

Significant Results:

Project idea solicitation, Board identification of ideas advanced to proposal stage and requesting proposals.

Planning Spring 2025 meeting and all it entails.