



North/West Passage
Transportation Pooled Fund Study
TPF-5(190)
Q3 2009 Status Report
July 1 – September 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 Request for Proposal (RFP) for Project 4.1/4.3 was posted on the Minnesota DOT's website. Proposals were received on September 17 and a contractor was selected to complete the project.

- **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/>

Based on the recommendations from the Project 4.2 final report, the group agreed to move forward with developing an unsolicited proposal to the USDOT to request funding to:

- Demonstrate establishing a data exchange of critical incident and road condition information between all member states; and
- Demonstrate modifying individual 511 phone systems in each member state to allow callers to the 511 system in their current state to hear reports for adjacent states (without the need for call forwarding).

Athey Creek Consultants began drafting the unsolicited proposal.

- **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 University of Wisconsin was selected through the Minnesota DOT's RFP process to complete Project 4.4.

- **Project 4.5: Traveler Information Dissemination to Commercial Vehicle Operators (Old Title: Expanded Corridor-Wide Truck Parking Facilities)**
The goal of Project 4.5 is to work with North/West Passage member agencies to research and document experiences, challenges, and successes disseminating travel information to truckers, and to prepare guidelines for commercial vehicle travel information for the North/West Passage Corridor that could be used by individual member states, or considered for an eventual Phase 3 of the Corridor-wide Traveler Information Website.

The group discussed the focus of Project 4.5 and agreed to revise the scope of work as follows.

To work with North/West Passage member agencies to research and document experiences, challenges, and successes disseminating travel information to truckers, and to prepare guidelines for commercial vehicle travel information for the North/West Passage Corridor that could be used by individual member states, or considered for an eventual Phase 3 of the Corridor-wide Traveler Information Website.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee provides overall program direction. The committee held three teleconference meetings during the 3rd Quarter. The following bullets summarize the meeting discussions.

- Steering Committee Meeting on July 21, 2009
A Steering Committee Meeting was held on July 21, 2009. The primary focus of this meeting was to provide updates on the Work Plan 4 projects, discuss the schedule for developing the next work plan, and schedule the 2010 Annual Meeting.
- Steering Committee Meeting on August 18, 2009
A Steering Committee Meeting was held on August 18, 2009. The primary focus of this meeting was to provide updates on the Work Plan 4 projects, approve guidelines for developing letters of support from the corridor, and agree on a format for creating an ITS component inventory.
- Steering Committee Annual Meeting on September 24, 2009
A Steering Committee Meeting was held on September 24, 2009. The primary focus of this meeting was to provide updates on the Work Plan 4 projects and continue discussions on project ideas for Work Plan 5. The group also developed a letter of support for a rural IntelliDrive effort in Idaho.

Status/Progress Anticipated Next Quarter

- Steering Committee Meetings in October, November and December.
- Project 4.1: North/West Passage Travel Information Website – Phase 2 and Project 4.3 Center to Center Communications Concept of Operations
Schedule the 4.1/4 Kick-off Meeting.
- Project 4.2: Call Forwarding and Evaluation of Cross Border Information Requests
Continue to 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
Schedule the 4.4 Kick-off Meeting.
- Project 4.5: Traveler Information Dissemination to Commercial Vehicle Operators
Initiate discussions with CVO representatives in each North/West Passage states to gather information regarding disseminating traveler information to truckers.

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)
- 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)

Project Manager (Program Administrator)

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