

TRANSPORTATION POOLED FUND PROGRAM QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Lead Agency: Utah 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 # TPF-5(526)	Transportation Pooled Fund Program - Report Period: ☐ Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31, 2025) ☐ Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30, 2025) ☒ Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30, 2025) ☐ Quarter 4 (October 1 – December 31, 2025)	
Project Title: Western Transportation Research Consortium		
Name of Project Manager(s): David Stevens, Cameron Kergaye	Phone Number: 801-589-8340	E-Mail davidstevens@utah.gov
Lead Agency Project ID: FINET 42115, ePM PIN 21525 UDOT PIC No. PL05.526	Other Project ID (i.e., contract #): 1 st UDOT Contract No. 25-8222 (Administrative Coordinator Svcs)	Project Start Date: November 8, 2023 (TPF study #) August 23, 2024 (1 st contract)
Original Project End Date: September 30, 2026 (pooled fund)	Current Project End Date: February 28, 2026 (1 st contract SOW) September 30, 2028 (pooled fund)	Number of Extensions: 1 mod

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
Total commitments = \$1,035,000.00 Current obligated funds = \$765,000.00 1 st contract amount = \$293,768.63 Fund balance not on contract = \$469,504.96	\$169,547.69 (from 1 st contract) \$1,726.41 (contract management)	58% (1 st contract)

Quarterly Project Statistics:

Total Project Expenses and Percentage This Quarter	Total Amount of Funds Expended This Quarter	Total Percentage of Time Used to Date
27% (1 st contract)	\$79,983.10 (1 st contract)	73% (project)

Project Description:

AASHTO RAC Region IV presents this transportation pool funded initiative to conduct strategic research and foster collaboration among member states. Its purpose is to pool the financial, professional, and academic resources of the region to develop improved methods of dealing with common problems in the planning, design, construction, maintenance, management and operation of transportation systems. The consortium will gather DOT research and innovation professionals, virtually or in-person, to prioritize transportation needs and allocate resources. It will also address high priority transportation research topics of common interest to RAC IV states. The lead state will manage contracted services and adhere to the consortium charter.

Benefits of the partnership include:

- Regional collaboration on common problems will allow participants to more effectively use their resources.
- Collaboration will provide an effective way to focus resources on the Region's transportation research priorities.
- The program will provide an additional way to leverage research and technology transfer funding of the state DOTs.
- The program will provide a means to define, support and share technology of mutual interest.
- The program will provide a method for Peer Exchange support.
- The partnership will develop a longer-range plan of collaboration (strategic plan).
- A focused program will help promote interest in transportation related fields by researchers and students within the research institutions in the region.

The program is intended to supplement, not to replace, ongoing state, federal, and university research activities and other national programs such as the National Cooperative Highway Research Program. It is intended to reduce duplication of research and provide means for better communication of on-going research activities in the state research programs.

UDOT intends to hire a firm or university as the Administrative Coordinator consultant (currently CTC & Associates) for the consortium and a number of firms or universities as Research consultants for specific studies, all through qualifications-based selection using a series of Solicitations (Requests for Qualifications). The technical advisory committee (TAC) for the study currently includes representatives from UT, AK, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OK, SD, TX, WA, and WY state DOTs and an FHWA technical liaison.

On the TPF website, UDOT has added 2027 and 2028 as available years for which to commit funds. Partner states in the consortium are encouraged to transfer their 2026 funding commitments to UDOT in early Federal FY 2026. The Y560 program funds are preferred for the SPR funding transfers.

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

Contracts – No contract activity this quarter.

Tasks

Progress is shown by task; these tasks and general descriptions were previously established in the WTRC Administrative Coordinator Services contract with CTC & Associates.

1. Coordinate SME Activities. Coordinate activities to stimulate research among the WTRC member state DOTs' subject matter expert groups.
 - HiMod SME Topical Discussion – A planning team was established with members from four WTRC member states. Two planning meetings were held. The planning team selected three subtopics, decided on the event format, identified the weeks to hold the event and identified several potential presenters and panel members.
2. Manage Research Projects. Manage the procedural and administrative requirements of research projects.
 - CTC & Associates posted a 2025 Research Projects Overview spreadsheet on the WTRC members' SharePoint site, which contains the latest updates on all projects. CTC also created and maintains folders for individual project files.
 - Project 25-1: Wildlife Fencing Effectiveness in Reducing Crashes; Research Project
 - Project budget: \$75,000; PI: AECOM
 - UDOT developed a project scope and entered into contract negotiations AECOM.
 - Project 25-2: Buy America Build America (BABA) Compliance Across State DOTs: Barriers, Best Practices, and the Case for Uniformity; Synthesis
 - Project budget: \$30,000; PI: TBD
 - WTRC members decided to hold off proceeding until October 1, 2025, to see if the phased termination of FHWA's general waiver for manufactured products would begin or if the waiver would be extended.
 - Project 25-3: Documenting the Research Study Process; Synthesis
 - Project budget: \$50,000; PI: CTC & Associates
 - Target delivery: May 2026 (draft)
 - A subcommittee was established, and the project kickoff meeting was held in August.
 - The project scope was developed, revised and approved in September.
 - During the August call, CTC & Associates was identified to conduct this work; further progress in the conduct of this research is described in Task 6, Quick-Turnaround Research Studies.
 - Project 25-4: Estimating Bridge Scour During Hydrological Disaster and Extreme Weather Events; Preliminary Investigation
 - Project budget: \$30,000; PI: CTC & Associates
 - Target delivery: December 2025 (draft)
 - A subcommittee was established, and the states met over the summer to discuss technologies.
 - UT, CO and CTC & Associates had multiple discussions on possible project scope and direction in July and August 2025.
 - CO and CTC & Associates developed a draft AASHTO RAC survey in August 2025.
 - CTC & Associates was identified to conduct this work; further progress in the conduct of this research is described in Task 6.

- Project 25-5: AI Safeguards and Considerations for Research Program and Project Management; Webinar
 - Project budget: \$15,000; PI: CTC & Associates
 - Target delivery: February 2026
 - The concept was scoped with UDOT, and WTRC members volunteered to serve on the project subcommittee.
 - CTC & Associates has been previously identified to conduct this work; progress in the conduct of this research is described in Task 6.
3. Advisory/Technical Committees. Provide all services necessary to manage the administrative and functional activities of UDOT, the WTRC Advisory Committee and the research technical committees.
 - CTC & Associates completed and published the final report for the May 2025 WTRC peer exchange and submitted it to TRB for inclusion in the AASTHO RAC peer exchange report repository. CTC & Associates began planning for the next in-person WTRC meeting and peer exchange taking place from May 19-21, 2026 in Boise, Idaho. Planning activities included working with IDT on hotel guest room and meeting room logistics.
 - WTRC website – CTC & Associates updated the WTRC website at westerntrc.org. A May 2025 WTRC meeting page and meeting materials were posted.
 4. Technology Transfer. Provide assistance with all technology transfer and communication activities.
 5. Contract Administration. Conduct administrative work, such as budgeting and overall program planning.
 - CTC & Associates tracked member funds transfers to Utah and updated the shared commitments and transfers spreadsheet.
 6. Quick-Turnaround Research Studies
 - Project 25-3: Documenting the Research Study Process; Synthesis
 - Based on the August kickoff meeting, CTC developed and revised a project scope in September, which the WTRC subcommittee approved.
 - Work progressed for planned deliverable, and online spreadsheet database driven by a WTRC member survey, supported by a short report.
 - Task 1. Develop Initial Data Categories and Survey Tool – In progress
 - Project 25-4: Estimating Bridge Scour During Hydrological Disaster and Extreme Weather Events
 - CTC & Associates prepared and delivered preliminary resources document.
 - The subcommittee met in September and agreed on an initial synthesis effort to be delivered by CTC by December 15 and discussed by the subcommittee in January 2026. The WTRC subcommittee approved the survey. WTRC member Steve Cohn distributed the survey to the AASHTO Research Advisory Committee on September 22, with a due date in mid-October.
 - Project 25-5: AI Safeguards and Considerations for Research Program and Project Management; Webinar
 - Project budget: \$15,000; PI: CTC & Associates
 - The concept was scoped with UDOT.
 - CTC continued initial planning for February 2026 webinar.

Meetings – A meeting was held with UDOT & CTC and Associates on July 10, 2025. UDOT and CTC & Associates provided a WTRC update at the AASHTO RAC Region IV meeting at the AASHTO RAC Summer Meeting in Billings, MT on July 14, 2025.

Anticipated work next quarter:

Contracts – CTC & Associates will draft and submit a contract amendment for the consortium Administrative Coordinator services. The amendment will add funds to cover the costs for the May 2026 peer exchange and meeting, as well as new contract activity extending through February 28, 2027.

Tasks

Anticipated work is shown by task.

1. Coordinate SME Activities. Coordinate activities to stimulate research among the WTRC member state DOTs' subject matter expert groups.
 - HiMod SME Topical Discussion – Additional planning team meetings will be held to finalize the event format, presenters and panel members, and event dates (late January or early February 2026). Planning team members will contact potential presenters and panel members to secure their participation in the event. CTC & Associates will work with confirmed presenters and panel members on event logistics. CTC & Associates will create an event invitation for all WTRC members to share with staff and interested parties outside of their agency.
 - UAS for Noxious Weed Treatment - A planning team with members from three WTRC member states will be established, and a kickoff meeting will be held.
2. Manage Research Projects. Manage the procedural and administrative requirements of research projects.
 - Project 25-1: Wildlife Fencing Effectiveness in Reducing Crashes; Research Project
 - Project budget: \$75,000; PI: AECOM
 - UDOT will finalize the contract with AECOM.
 - A subcommittee will be established with SMEs from the four WTRC members (CO, ID, NV and WY) and hold a kickoff meeting.
 - The PI will work with the SMEs to determine what data they have. Data from three of the four WTRC member's will be incorporated into the project.
 - Project 25-2: Buy America Build America (BABA) Compliance Across State DOTs: Barriers, Best Practices, and the Case for Uniformity; Synthesis
 - Project budget: \$30,000; PI: TBD
 - WTRC will decide on October 20 how to proceed on this project. Pending identification of next steps and an investigator, this may be further addressed in Task 6.
 - Project 25-3: Documenting the Research Study Process; Synthesis
 - Project budget: \$50,000; PI: CTC & Associates
 - Target delivery: May 2026 (draft)
 - See Task 6 for discussion of planned work.
 - Project 25-4: Estimating Bridge Scour During Hydrological Disaster and Extreme Weather Events; Preliminary Investigation
 - Project budget: \$30,000; PI: CTC & Associates
 - Target delivery: December 2025 (draft)
 - See Task 6 for discussion of planned work.
 - Project 25-5: AI Safeguards and Considerations for Research Program and Project Management; Webinar
 - Project budget: \$15,000; PI: CTC & Associates
 - Target delivery: February 2026
 - See Task 6 for discussion of planned work.

3. **Advisory/Technical Committees.** Provide all services necessary to manage the administrative and functional activities of UDOT, the WTRC Advisory Committee and the research technical committees.
 - CTC & Associates will continue the planning for the next in-person WTRC meeting and peer exchange taking place from May 19-21, 2026 in Boise, ID. Planning activities will include developing a draft agenda and travel memo, working with the hotel on meeting logistics and begin booking member flights.
 - The WTRC website will be designed and updated with additional meeting and peer exchange materials and member information.
4. **Technology Transfer.** Provide assistance with all technology transfer and communication activities.
5. **Contract Administration.** Conduct administrative work, such as budgeting and overall program planning.
 - CTC & Associates will reach out to members regarding transferring their FFY26 funds to Utah. CTC & Associates will track member funds transfers to Utah and update the shared commitments and transfers spreadsheet.
6. **Quick-Turnaround Research Studies**
 - Project 25-3: Documenting the Research Study Process; Synthesis
 - CTC & Associates will complete the first three project tasks as scoped:
 - Task 1. Develop Initial Data Categories and Survey Tool
 - Task 2. Test and Revise Tool
 - Task 3. Build Database
 - CTC & Associates will also begin work on Task 4. Conduct Surveys and Compile Data.
 - Project 25-4: Estimating Bridge Scour During Hydrological Disaster and Extreme Weather Events; Preliminary Investigation
 - CTC will close the survey and compile, summarize and synthesize the survey results as part of the synthesis report deliverable; this will be submitted by December 15, 2025.
 - CTC will schedule a subcommittee planning team meeting for early 2026.
 - Project 25-5: AI Safeguards and Considerations for Research Program and Project Management; Webinar
 - The WTRC subcommittee will meet in October to review project roles, define webinar learning objectives and outcomes, determine the topic scope, and set tasks and timelines.
 - Work will progress toward development and delivery of the webinar; the subcommittee will reconvene as needed.

Meetings – A planning meeting will be held with UDOT and CTC & Associates on October 9, 2025 in preparation for the October 20, 2025 WTRC TAC teleconference. Additional meetings will be held as necessary.

Significant Results:

- Work began on one SME Topical Discussion, one research project, one synthesis, one preliminary investigation and one webinar. Work began on planning the 2026 annual meeting and peer exchange.

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).

None.

Potential Implementation: