

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 #	Transportation Pooled Fund Program - Report Period: Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31) X Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30) Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30) Quarter 4 (October 4 – December 31)	
Project Title: Aurora Program Management		
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	\$96,704	50%

Quarterly Project Statistics:

Total Project Expenses This Quarter	Total Amount of Funds Expended This Quarter	Percentage of Work Completed This Quarter
\$69,243		25%

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. An ongoing task is to finalize the RFP and specifications page, which was revisited this quarter.

Managed the Aurora email list. This included changing and updating representatives and alternates.

Coordinated with TPF-5(435) member states regarding commitments for current pooled fund. Shared information as requested.

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

Distributed invitation to Aurora members and friends, on behalf of the ITS JPO, regarding road weather and traffic incidents specifications.

Discussed research briefs.

Coordinated member request regarding the following.

“Are there any resources that examine rural public transportation alternative funding sources in your State, national, or internationally they may be aware of? If so, can they provide information, website, contacts, etc.”

Reshared monthly meeting invitations, as necessary.

Held a meeting (April 30, 2025) with selected Aurora Board members regarding expectations for the September 2025 joint meeting with Clear Road and AASHTO.

Participated in planning a meeting (May 1, 2025) with Clear Roads and AASHTO regarding the joint meeting in September 2025. Provided availability for another planning meeting early next quarter.

Addressed question from a Friend of Aurora members about “standard weather messaging for DMS signs” and shared a possible resource.

Prepared Aurora update for the Winter Maintenance and Road Weather National Briefing, which was given by Chair Mike Chapman. Revisions and clarifications were provided in advance of the update being recorded. The presentation itself was also shared with AASHTO.

Followed up regarding request for virtual Aurora update for 6th National Winter Maintenance and Road Weather Briefing.

Coordinated an Aurora member request regarding the following.

Does any member state, or does anyone, know of any contacts who have implemented automated VSL based on snow conditions? If so, what thresholds or conditions are used for adjusting the speed limits?

Coordinated a Friend of Aurora request to the Aurora Board regarding the following.

I have a brief request concerning your states’ weather-related (unplanned, non-work zone) road closure policies and procedures. I’m doing a search for:

- 1) The policy/decision process that states use to decide when to close a road due to weather - is there a physical threshold (snowfall, flooding, etc.) and if so, what is it? Who makes the final call?*
- 2) How does each state and other agencies along the corridor interface with adjacent states if you/they have closed a road, etc.?*

3) *What is your process for how a road closure physically happens? Does someone have to be on site to conduct a closure/reopening or can it be done virtually with cameras and comms to field devices? Along those lines, are any states engaging in automation of road closure processes or are states hesitant to trust implementation of smart systems?*

Facilitate Meetings and Conference Calls:

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

- Finalized arrangements with venue and coordinated services and accommodations while on-site.
- Finalized and distributed agenda
- Arranged outstanding travel for members (processed travel requests).
- Coordinated group meals.
- Managed meeting, including external presentations and field trip transportation.
- Distributed and revised draft meeting minutes.
- Processed travel reimbursement requests.
- Processed meeting expenses.

Held monthly meetings.

- April 2025
 - Meetings
 - Spring 2025
 - 2025 Project Ideas
 - Integrated outstanding votes
 - Seven proposals requested
 - Proposals due by COB April 17, 2025
 - Please review prior to Spring meeting
 - Five-minute presentations at Spring meeting
 - Project Updates
 - 2023-04 Standardized Framework for Winter Weather Road Condition Indices
 - “Collaboration at Work” Communication Products for Aurora Pooled Fund Study TPF-5(543)
- May 2025 – No meeting due to Spring in-person meeting.
- June 2025
 - Project Discussion
 - Proposal still under consideration
 - CARWIS: Pilot - Deliverables and Future Steps
 - Standardized Framework for Winter Weather Road Condition Indices: TRB Workshop
 - Spring 2025 Meeting Minutes
 - Meetings
 - Fall 2025 Joint Meeting
 - Topic ideas
 - Spring 2026
 - Aurora Program (2025-2029) TPF-5(543)

Project-Specific Activities:

Received and distributed seven requested proposals to the Aurora Board.

Continued to address questions from research teams for ideas not advanced to proposal stage.

Shared all submitted ideas with Iowa DOT.

Organized presentations by research teams at the Spring 2025 meeting.

Facilitated member discussion and proposal ranking during Spring 2025 meeting. One project was selected, and one project reserved for possible additional consideration, upon scope and budget review. The Iowa DOT was initiating contracting.

The research teams for all seven proposals were contacted regarding Board decision(s). Questions were addressed from research teams as received.

Held a meeting with the research team of proposal still under consideration regarding general Board interest and preferences. Additional feedback was provided after receiving a revised scope and estimated budget. The research team provided a second revised scope and estimated budget. During the June 2025 Aurora meeting, the Board discussed the two revised scopes/budgets. InTrans was asked by the Board to contact the research team regarding possible additional revisions, with a desire to vote on the revised scopes/budgets during the July 2025. InTrans shared pertinent information with the research team, addressed several questions and shared questions from the research team with two member states.

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.

Fall 2025 Meeting

- Coordinate with Clear Roads and AASHTO regarding agenda for joint portion of meeting.
- Continue working on draft agenda for Aurora only portions of joint meeting.

Spring 2026 Meeting

- Investigate possible cities and venues. Discuss options with Board.
- Coordinate with Board regarding possible dates.

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.

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

Project-Specific Activities:

Continue working with the Board and research team of proposal still under consideration.

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.

Prepare draft, updated idea solicitation.

Circumstance affecting project or budget:

Significant Results:

Received and distributed seven proposals.

Board selected one project for funding and is deliberating an additional project.

Held Spring 2025 meeting.

Held two monthly meetings.