

## 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.*

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

☒ 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
\$825,000	\$91,899	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 and updated the Aurora website, including adding content. 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.

Upon request, shared early draft agenda for Fall 2026 meeting with pending member state for travel authorization purposes.

Upon request, shared excerpt from Aurora Operating Rules regarding travel support with pending member state for travel authorization purposes.

Formally added California DOT in Aurora Pooled Fund.

Shared [Alaska DOT&PF Modernizing Statewide Road Weather Information Network \(Alaska DOT\)](#) news story with the Aurora Board and added it to the Aurora website. This prompted email discussions among several Aurora member states.

Upon request, shared Aurora logo colors with the Iowa DOT.

Shared [Clear Roads Snow and Ice 2030 survey](#) with the Aurora Board.

Shared FHWA [25 Year Research Agenda](#) document with Aurora Board.

Confirmed member state representative.

### **Facilitate Meetings and Conference Calls**

A primary activity this quarter was organizing and holding the Fall 2025 meeting in Bloomington, MN on September 16 to 18, 2025. Activities 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), including fly vs. drive cost estimates.
- Coordinated group meals.
- Shared information about possible non-meeting related activity.
- Managed meeting, including external presentations and field trip transportation.
- Prepared draft meeting minutes.
- Processed travel reimbursement requests.
- Processed meeting expenses.

September 17 was also a joint with AASTHO Winter Weather and the Clear Roads. Therefore, coordination with these agencies was necessary, including several meetings regarding the agenda, moderators, best practice presenters, responsibilities and event details, such as services.

Held monthly meetings on July 10, August 14 and

July 10, 2025

- Project Updates
  - Pikalert Revised Scope
    - Previous discussions
    - Current discussion
    - Vote
- CARWIS
  - Project deliverables
  - Timing

- Automating Variable Speed Limits Using Weather, Traffic, and Friction Data
  - Project deliverables
  - Timing
- Standardized Framework for Winter Weather Road Condition Indices
  - Task 5 report
- Meetings
  - Fall 2025 Joint Meeting
    - Draft agenda
    - Update from planning meeting
  - Spring 2026
    - Dates
    - Location

August 14, 2025

- Winter Roadway Condition Review for Utah DOT, Utah State University
- Welcome Back → California DOT
- Project Updates
  - Under Consideration
    - Pikalert Revised Proposal
    - Discussion
    - Vote
  - Recently Completed
    - CARWIS
    - Automating Variable Speed Limits Using Weather, Traffic, and Friction Data
  - Ongoing
    - Standardized Framework for Winter Weather Road Condition Indices
      - Task 5 report
  - Upcoming
    - Micro-Weather Risk Assessment for Post-Storm Roadway Safety
- Meetings
  - Fall 2025 Joint Meeting
    - Draft agenda
    - Best practices volunteers
  - Spring 2026

September 11, 2025

- Fall 2025 Meeting
  - Agenda
  - MnDOT welcome
  - Transportation to MNROAD
  - MnDOT opportunity Thursday afternoon
  - Twins v. Yankees, 6:40 pm, Tuesday, 9/16 → Section 204
- Project Updates
  - Recently Completed
    - CARWIS
    - Automating Variable Speed Limits Using Weather, Traffic, and Friction Data
  - New
    - Micro-Weather Risk Assessment for Post-Storm Roadway Safety
    - Deployment of Pikalert for Aurora
      - RWIS contacts for Illinois, Missouri, Ohio
- Clear Roads Survey on Snow and Ice 2030

Investigated travel costs to the Board's preliminary list of possible Spring 2026 meeting locations.

During the Fall 2025 meeting, the Aurora Board selected additional possible Spring 2026 meeting locations for consideration, including Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Santa Barbara, California; Richmond, Virginia; Charlottesville, Virginia.

During the Fall 2025 meeting, the Aurora Board selected May 19 to 21, 2026 for the Spring 2026 meeting. A save the date calendar invitation was sent to the Board.

### **Project-Specific Activities**

Received an updated one-page summary proposal for *2025-02 Deployment of Pikalert for Aurora* and shared it with the Aurora Board. The one-page proposal was discussed during the July Board meeting, and the Board voted to request a full updated proposal. The full updated proposal for *2025-02 Deployment of Pikalert for Aurora* was received and shared with the Board. The proposal was discussed during the August Board meeting, and the Board voted to fund the project.

Two new projects were initiated.

#### *2025-01 Micro-Weather Risk Assessment for Post-Storm Roadway Safety*

University Corporation for Atmospheric Research

Fully signed August 19, 2025

Term of performance: September 1, 2025 – November 30, 2027

#### *2025-02 Deployment of Pikalert for Aurora*

University Corporation for Atmospheric Research

Fully signed August 26, 2025

Term of performance: September 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026

#### *2025-01 Micro-Weather Risk Assessment for Post-Storm Roadway Safety*

- Held project kickoff meeting on September 16, 2025 during the Fall 2024 Board meeting in Bloomington, MN.
- Established Aurora project champion, Tina Greenfield, and team -- Mike Chapman, Mike Adams and Jeff Williams.

#### *2025-02 Deployment of Pikalert for Aurora*

- Upon request of the research team, reached out to Aurora members of states in which study corridors are located and shared contact information.
- Addressed inquiry from California DOT Chief of Office of ITS Engineering and Support regarding project.
- Established Aurora project champion, James Roath, and team -- Mike Adams, Dale Kirmer, Tonya Lohman, Tara Alston, Kristy Brod (pending response).
- Scheduled project kickoff meeting for October 27, 2025.

### **Anticipated work next quarter**

Continue Aurora website updates, including finalizing the RFP and specifications webpage.

Manage budget.

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

Address requests, as needed.

#### *Fall 2025 Meeting*

- Continue to address travel reimbursement requests.
- Finalize meeting minutes.

#### *Spring 2026 Meeting*

- Investigate possible cities and venues. Discuss options with Board.

Facilitate Meetings and conference calls.

Manage Friends of Aurora.

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*

Hold kickoff meeting for *2025-02 Deployment of Pikalert for Aurora*.

Schedule and host project meetings as needed.

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 for release in early 2026.

#### **Circumstance affecting project or budget**

Spring and Fall 2025 meeting expenses will be compared to the budgeted amount.

#### **Significant Results**

*2025-02 Deployment of Pikalert for Aurora* was selected by the Board for funding.

Held Fall 2025 meeting and joint meeting with AASHTO and Clear Roads.

Held kickoff meeting for *2025-01 Micro-Weather Risk Assessment for Post-Storm Roadway Safety*.

Held three monthly meetings.