

## 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.*

<b>Transportation Pooled Fund Program Project #</b>  <b>TPF-5(526)</b>	<b>Transportation Pooled Fund Program - Report Period:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31, 2025) <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30, 2025) <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30, 2025) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>X</b> Quarter 4 (October 1 – December 31, 2025)	
<b>Project Title:</b> Western Transportation Research Consortium		
<b>Name of Project Manager(s):</b> David Stevens, Cameron Kergaye	<b>Phone Number:</b> 801-589-8340	<b>E-Mail:</b> davidstevens@utah.gov
<b>Lead Agency Project ID:</b> FINET 42115, ePM PIN 21525 UDOT PIC No. PL05.526	<b>Other Project ID (i.e., contract #):</b> 1st UDOT Contract No. 25-8222 (CTC – Administrative Coordinator) 2nd UDOT Contract No. 26-8025 (AECOM – Wildlife Fencing Study)	<b>Project Start Date:</b> November 8, 2023 (TPF study #) August 23, 2024 (1st contract) October 7, 2025 (2nd contract)
<b>Original Project End Date:</b> September 30, 2026 (pooled fund)	<b>Current Project End Date:</b> February 28, 2026 (1st contract SOW) May 31, 2026 (2nd contract SOW) September 30, 2028 (pooled fund)	<b>Number of Extensions:</b> 1st contract – 1 mod 2nd contract – no mods

Project schedule status:

**X** 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 = \$1,065,000.00 Current obligated funds = \$765,000.00 1st contract amount = \$293,768.63 2nd contract amount = \$74,999.77 Fund balance not on contract = \$394,505.19	\$189,079.19 (from 1st contract) \$0.00 (from 2nd contract) \$1,726.41 (contract management)	64% (1st contract) 10% (2nd 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
7% (1st contract) 0% (2nd contract)	\$19,531.50 (1st contract) \$0.00 (2nd contract)	43% (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** – CTC worked with UDOT to draft a contract amendment for consortium Administrative Coordinator services, for submission in Q1 2026.

**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 – The planning team finalized event dates, subtopics, presenters and panel members. Emails were sent to all potential presenters and panel members to secure their participation. The event dates were set for February 2 and 4, 2026.
  - UAS for Noxious Weed Treatments – A kickoff planning team with members from MT, NV and OK was held on December 8, 2025. Initial subtopics were selected.
2. Manage Research Projects. Manage the procedural and administrative requirements of research projects.
  - CTC & Associates updated the 2025 Research Projects Overview spreadsheet on the WTRC members' SharePoint site, with the latest updates on all projects. CTC also maintained and added materials to project folders.
  - Project 25-1: Wildlife Fencing Effectiveness in Reducing Crashes; Research Project
    - Project budget: \$75,000; PI: AECOM
    - UDOT finalized the contract with AECOM.
    - Target delivery: May 2026
    - A subcommittee with SMEs from the four WTRC members (CO, ID, NV and WY) was established, and a kickoff meeting was held.
    - The PI has data from CO and NV and is gathering data from ID and WY.
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 planned, facilitated and documented a web meeting of the WTRC Advisory Committee held on October 20, 2025.
  - CTC & Associates continued the planning for the next in-person WTRC meeting and peer exchange, to take place from May 19-21, 2026 in Boise, ID. The hotel room block and meeting room were secured.
  - CTC & Associates made updates to the WTRC website.
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 25-2: Buy America Build America (BABA) Compliance Across State DOTs: Barriers, Best Practices, and the Case for Uniformity; Synthesis
    - Project budget: \$30,000; PI: TBD
    - CTC & Associates planned, facilitated and documented a project 25-2 subcommittee meeting on November 6 to discuss possible next steps for this project.

- CTC & Associates communicated details on AASHTO's December 1 Western States webinar on the Domestic Materials Self-Certification Form to WTRC members and secured attendance to attend. CTC & Associates requested the complete Western States recording to share with WTRC members.
- Project 25-3: Documenting the Research Study Process; Synthesis
  - Project budget: \$50,000; PI: CTC & Associates
  - Target delivery: May 2026 (draft)
  - As scoped in September 2025, CTC & Associates:
    - Completed Task 1, the development of initial data categories for the survey tool.
    - Initiated Task 2, preparation for testing and revision of the tool with a subcommittee member state.
    - Initiated Task 3, creation of the online database to be sited on the WTRC website .
- 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)
  - CTC & Associates closed the survey, compiled findings, and shared this un-synthesized compilation with subcommittee members October.
  - CTC & Associates met with project submitting state Colorado on November to discuss Colorado's initial analysis.
  - CTC summarized and synthesized the survey results as part of the synthesis report deliverable; CTC & Associates drafted a synthesis and sent it to the project committee on December 22, 2026 with a request for comments.
  - The next project committee meeting has been scheduled for January 29, 2026.
- 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
  - A project committee was established, and the kickoff meeting was held on October 22, 2025.
  - A plan was set and is in progress for development and delivery of a webinar on this topic for WTRC members on February 26, 2026. CTC & Associates set up a registration page for attendees.
  - CTC & Associates presented a preview of this webinar at an in-person meeting of the national AASHTO Research Advisory Committee on January 11 at that group's invitation.

### **Anticipated work next quarter:**

**Contracts** – CTC & Associates will submit the 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 – CTC & Associates will create an invitation email for planning team members and WTRC members to send to staff, industry and university partners. CTC & Associates will send guidance to presenters and panelists to help them prepare for the event. A final planning team meeting will be held on January 20, 2026 to finalize event logistics. The event will be held on February 2 and 4, 2026. The event recordings and materials will be posted on the WTRC website.
  - UAS for Noxious Weed Treatment – A planning team will be held on January 20, 2026 to further decide on subtopics, event format, presenters and event dates. Late spring or early summer 2026 is anticipated.
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
    - An update meeting for the project subcommittee of SMEs will be held on February 9, 2026 to review progress and coordinate next steps.
    - AECOM will continue/initiate the literature review, data collection, and crash analysis tasks in coordination with participating states.
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 drafting an agenda, sending the travel memo to members, and booking flights.
  - In anticipation of posting year 1 project findings, CTC & Associates will launch the individual project pages on the WTRC website.
4. Technology Transfer. Provide assistance with all technology transfer and communication activities.
  - CTC & Associates will prepare short presentations on completed 2025 research presentations.
5. Contract Administration. Conduct administrative work, such as budgeting and overall program planning.
  - CTC & Associates will track member funds transfers to Utah and update the shared commitments and transfers spreadsheet.
6. Quick-Turnaround Research Studies
  - 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
    - The project committee will reconvene to decide how to move forward with this effort.
  - Project 25-3: Documenting the Research Study Process; Synthesis
    - CTC & Associates will:

- Complete Task 2, preparation for testing and revision of the tool with a subcommittee member state.
  - Complete Task 3, creation of the online database to be sited on the WTRC website.
  - Initiate Task 4, conduct of surveys and compilation of data.
- Project 25-4: Estimating Bridge Scour During Hydrological Disaster and Extreme Weather Events; Preliminary Investigation
  - CTC & Associates will make revisions based on the project subcommittee's January 2026 meeting and finalize the project and finalize the synthesis study.
  - CTC & Associates will document decisions on next steps and facilitate those steps as decided.
- Project 25-5: AI Safeguards and Considerations for Research Program and Project Management; Webinar
  - The webinar will be held on February 26, 2026.
  - CTC & Associates will run and facilitate the webinar and will post the webinar recording and materials on the WTRC website, including supplementary collateral discussing selected webinar topics in greater detail.

**Meetings –**

- A planning meeting with UDOT & CTC and Associates will be held on January 22, 2026.
- CTC & Associates will schedule and convene a peer exchange planning meeting among the three host state (Idaho, New Mexico and Washington state) and Utah DOT in February.
- A WTRC Advisory Committee meeting will be held on February 11, 2026.

**Significant Results:**

- Work began or continued on two SME Topical Discussions, one research project, two syntheses, 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:**

The outcomes of three significant efforts to be delivered in Q1 2025 — Project 25-4: Estimating Bridge Scour During Hydrological Disaster and Extreme Weather Events synthesis, Project 25-5: AI Safeguards and Considerations for Research Program and Project Management webinar, and the HiMod SME Topical Discussion — are all expected to produce critical knowledge and best practices that individual WTRC members can put to use in their home agencies. Moreover, these findings may help inform follow-up activities or research studies for this pooled fund study or other regional or national bodies.