

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) Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30) Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30) X Quarter 4 (October 4 – December 31)	
Project Title: Aurora Program		
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:

X 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	\$171,290	50%

Quarterly Project Statistics:

Total Project Expenses This Quarter	Total Amount of Funds Expended This Quarter	Percentage of Work Completed This Quarter
\$79,391		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.

Addressed question from member regarding from Amazon Web Service (AWS).

Distributed survey request from the Minnesota DOT regarding snowplow user interfaces.

Initiated a contract extension.

Addressed question from Board member regarding past leadership role.

Facilitate Meetings and Conference Calls

Activities related to the Fall 2025 meeting held in Bloomington, MN last quarter included the following.

- Coordinating with Clear Road regarding meeting minutes for the joint meeting. This included preparing several drafts.
- Distributed comprehensive draft meeting minutes to the Aurora Board.
- Continued processing travel reimbursement requests.
- Approved payment of venue expenses.

Organized monthly meetings, including preparing agendas and inviting guests. Held three monthly meetings: October 9, November 13 and December 11.

October 9 Meeting Agenda.

- ✚ Welcome & Introductions
- ✚ Fall 2025 Meeting
 - Travel reimbursement
 - Draft minutes
 - Report out
- ✚ Spring 2026 Meeting
 - May 19 – 21, 2026
 - Prelim. airfare investigation
- ✚ FHWA 25 Year Research Agenda
<https://forms.office.com/g/dYMu8TgaAM>
- ✚ [Iowa Mesonet IEM One Demo](#)
- ✚ Project Updates
 - Final reports published
 - Automating Variable Speed Limits Using Weather, Traffic, and Friction Data
 - CARWIS
 - Demo: <https://r-uihilab01.ecn.uiowa.edu/lab/carwis/>
 - Deployment of Pikalert for Aurora → Kickoff Meeting 2:00 (CT), 10/27/2025
- ✚ Open Discussion
- ✚ Wrap Up

November 13 Meeting Agenda

- ✚ Welcome & Introductions
- ✚ Fall 2025 Meeting
 - Travel reimbursement
 - Draft minutes
- ✚ Spring 2026 Meeting
- ✚ Demonstration: *Deployment of Pikalert for Aurora*
- ✚ Pikalert Blowing Snow Identification Model [Not related to current Aurora project]

- ✚ Evaluation of Road Weather Messages on DMS Based on Roadside Pavement Sensors, MnDOT
- ✚ Reminder
- ✚ CARWIS Demo: <https://r-uihilab01.ecn.uiowa.edu/lab/carwis/>
- ✚ Open Discussion
- ✚ Wrap Up

Also, distributed recording of the meeting to the Board and addressed any sharing issues.

December 11 Meeting Agenda

- ✚ Welcome & Introductions
- ✚ Spring 2026 Meeting
- ✚ Support Contract
- ✚ Final Project Meeting

“Standardized Framework for Winter Weather Road Condition Indices”

- ✚ Reminders

Pikalert: <https://emdss.pikalert.org/Pikalert/?state=aurora>

CARWIS Demo: <https://r-uihilab01.ecn.uiowa.edu/lab/carwis/>

- ✚ Open Discussion
- ✚ Wrap Up

Continued investigating travel costs to the Board’s preliminary list of possible Spring 2026 meeting location, including Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Santa Barbara, California; Richmond, Virginia; Charlottesville, Virginia.

Upon request, re-shared placeholder for Spring 2026 meeting with Board member.

Project-Specific Activities

Addressed request from UCAR regarding a project-related press release. This also entailed coordinated with UCAR and the Iowa DOT.

Upon request, shared project teams for 2025-1 and 2025-2 with Iowa DOT.

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

- Shared the project team members with the research team.
- Shared the quarterly report form with the research team.
- The research team distributed “Task 1 White Paper: Micro-Weather Risk Corridor Selection” to the project team for feedback. Feedback from provided by one team member before the end of the quarter.

2025-02 Deployment of Pikalert for Aurora

- Shared the quarterly report form with the research team.
- Upon request, shared kickoff meeting invitation with additional Board member.
- Held project kickoff meeting for October 27, 2025.
- Distributed kickoff meeting slide deck with the project team.
- Upon request, distributed kickoff meeting slide deck and recording with additional Board member.
- Coordinated with research team regarding scheduling Pikalert demonstration. The research team ultimately provided a demonstration during the November 13 monthly meeting.

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.

Spring 2026 Meeting

- Complete investigation of costs and venues.
- Discuss finding with the Board.
- Select meeting city and contract with venue.
- Provide documentation necessary for members to initiate travel authorizations.

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

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.

2026 Idea Solicitation

- Coordinate with Iowa DOT regarding any necessary changes and appropriate language.
- Request initial input from the Board, particularly with respect to topic areas, funding levels, number of ideas from agencies and individuals and allowable length of submissions.
- Prepare idea solicitation document and distribute in late January/early February 2026.

Circumstance affecting project or budget

Meeting expenses

Significant Results

Held kickoff meeting for *2025-02 Deployment of Pikalert for Aurora* and facilitated demonstration during monthly meeting.

Finalized and distributed minutes for Fall 2025 meeting and joint meeting with AASHTO and Clear Roads.

Held three monthly meetings.

Researched expenses for proposed Spring 2026 meeting cities.