

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: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31, 2026) <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30, 2026) <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30, 2026) <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 4 (October 1 – December 31, 2026)	
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 #): 1st UDOT Contract No. 25-8222 (CTC – Administrative Coordinator) 2nd UDOT Contract No. 26-8025 (AECOM – Wildlife Fencing Study)	Project Start Date: November 8, 2023 (TPF study #) August 23, 2024 (1st contract) October 7, 2025 (2nd contract)
Original Project End Date: September 30, 2026 (pooled fund)		Current Project End Date: February 28, 2027 (1st contract SOW) May 31, 2026 (2nd contract SOW) September 30, 2028 (pooled fund)	Number of Extensions: 1st contract – 2 mods 2nd contract – no mods

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 = \$1,195,000.00 Current obligated funds = \$855,000.00 1st contract amount = \$546,686.96 2nd contract amount = \$74,999.77 Fund balance not on contract = \$231,517.10	\$261,071.52 (from 1st contract) \$11,215.95 (from 2nd contract) \$1,796.17 (contract management)	48% (1st contract) 50% (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
13% (1st contract) 15% (2nd contract)	\$71,992.33 (1st contract) \$11,215.95 (2nd contract)	49% (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 finalize a contract amendment for consortium Administrative Coordinator services. This was executed in February 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.
 - Project 25-TD-1: HiMod SME Topical Discussion — **Complete**
 - CTC & Associates provided guidance to all presenters and coordinated assignments and materials. A final planning team meeting was held on January 20, 2026 to finalize event logistics.
 - CTC facilitated and recorded the two-day event on February 2 and 4, 2026.
 - CTC edited the webinar recordings and published all agenda, presentation PDFs and recordings to the WTRC website.
 - Project 25-TD-2: UAS for Noxious Weed Treatments – Planning meetings were held on January 20, February 24 and April 1, 2026. Three main topics were selected by the planning team. CTC sent emails to potential DOT participants.
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.
 - CTC & Associates distributed the 2026 WTRC Research Idea submission form on January 29 to members with instructions for its completion.
 - Project 25-1: Wildlife Fencing Effectiveness in Reducing Crashes; Research Project
 - Project budget: \$75,000; PI: AECOM
 - Target delivery: May 2026
 - Data gathering was completed with CO, ID, NV and WY.
 - AECOM continued the literature review, data collection, and crash analysis tasks in coordination with participating states.
 - Two SME subcommittee meetings were held (Feb. 9 and Mar. 12) to review progress and coordinate next steps.
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 continued the planning for the next in-person WTRC meeting and peer exchange, to take place from May 19-21, 2026 in Boise, ID. This included meeting arrangement and logistics and agenda development.
 - CTC & Associates made updates to the WTRC website.
4. Technology Transfer. Provide assistance with all technology transfer and communication activities.
 - CTC developed, revised and shared a Section 508- and ADA- compliant research report template for all WTRC projects.
 - CTC began development of a two-page WTRC research brief template.
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.
- CTC provided onboarding guidance for new representatives from New Mexico DOT and Caltrans.

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
 - Target delivery: Tentatively discontinued
 - CTC & Associates met with UDOT and the subcommittee chair with Idaho TD on February 23, 2026 regarding next steps for this project.
 - Based on ongoing work by AASHTO Product Evaluation & Audit Solutions on its own Domestic Materials Self-Certification form, together with other unknowns surrounding BABA and its application, UDOT and ITD agreed there was not an immediate specific need for WTRC work on this topic. They decided to discontinue this project and de-obligate the funds, pending the subcommittee's approval.
 - CTC communicated this tentative decision with the remaining three project subcommittee members on March 11. To date, two have agreed and one has not responded.
- Project 25-3: Documenting the Research Study Process; Synthesis
 - Project budget: \$50,000; PI: CTC & Associates
 - Target delivery: Summer 2026; final date to be determined
 - CTC & Associates:
 - Completed project Task 3, creation of the online database to be sited on the WTRC website.
 - Initiated project Task 4, conduct of surveys and compilation of data:
 - Conducted two pilot surveys with Utah DOT and Nevada DOT.
 - Revised the survey and sent it to the remaining 13 states.
- Project 25-4: Estimating Bridge Scour During Hydrological Disaster and Extreme Weather Events; Preliminary Investigation
 - Project budget: \$30,000; PI: CTC & Associates
 - Delivery: March 2026 (report) — **Complete**
 - CTC & Associates convened and documented a project subcommittee meeting on January 29, 2026.
 - Based on comments received, CTC revised, finalized and published the report for this project.
 - Additional communication and technology transfer for this project is being conducted under Task 4 of the Administrative Coordinator contract.
- Project 25-5: AI Safeguards and Considerations for Research Program and Project Management; Webinar
 - Project budget: \$15,000; PI: CTC & Associates
 - Delivery: The webinar was held on February 26, 2026 — **Complete**

- CTC & Associates gave summary presentation on the project webinar at the January 2026 AASHTO Research Advisory Committee in Washington, D.C. CTC later extended an invitation to the full RAC to this webinar.
- CTC & Associates finished developing webinar materials and held practice webinar sessions with co-presenter Enid White, Enterprise Research Consultant and facilitator Lucy Koury, Nevada DOT.
- CTC ran, facilitated and recorded the webinar.
- CTC edited the webinar recording and published the recording and supplementary materials on the WTRC website.

Meetings

In addition to project meetings as noted above, CTC planned, conducted and documented the following meetings:

- A planning meeting with UDOT on January 22, 2026.
- A full advisory committee meeting on February 11, 2026.
- A planning meeting with the peer exchange co-host states and UDOT on March 24, 2026.

Anticipated work next quarter:

Contracts – UDOT and CTC & Associates will assess whether the current Administrative Coordinator contract will adequately fund any tasks that may be assigned to CTC during the May 2026 meeting.

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.
 - Project 25-TD-2: UAS for Noxious Weed Treatment – A planning team will be held on May 11, 2026 to further decide event dates and participants. Due to spring and early summer being a busy time of year for potential participants, this event will be moved to July or August.
 - Based on discussions in Boise in May 2026, CTC may begin development of one or more additional SME Topical Discussions.
2. Manage Research Projects. Manage the procedural and administrative requirements of research projects.
 - CTC & Associates will compile the submitted 2026 research ideas projects into an online ballot for member vote. CTC will compile voting results and share responses (group rankings as well as individual comments and questions) to members in advance of the May 2026 meeting in Boise..
 - Project 25-1: Wildlife Fencing Effectiveness in Reducing Crashes; Research Project
 - Project budget: \$75,000; PI: AECOM
 - AECOM will share the draft report for subcommittee review, update the report based on comments, and finalize the report.
 - AECOM will present a summary of the project results during the May 2026 meeting in Boise.
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 conduct the next in-person WTRC meeting and peer exchange from May 19-21, 2026 in Boise, ID. CTC will complete travel and logistics planning, pay for group and travel expenses as contracted, facilitate and document the meetings, write meeting minutes, draft the peer exchange report, and coordinate participant travel reimbursements.

4. Technology Transfer. Provide assistance with all technology transfer and communication activities.
 - CTC & Associates will prepare short presentations on completed and in-progress 2025 research presentations for projects 25-4 on Bridge Scour and 25-5 on AI Safeguards (completed) and 25-2 on Research Processes (in progress).
 - CTC & Associates will finalize the two-page brief for project 25-4 and begin work planning a webinar.
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
 - Tentatively been discontinued; see discussion above.
 - 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.
 - Compile initial results for presentation at the May 2026 in Boise, and outline a plan for completing this project.

Meetings

- A planning meeting with UDOT & CTC and Associates will be held in May 2026.
- The WTRC May 2026 meeting and joint peer exchange (Idaho, New Mexico and Washington State) will be held in Boise, Idaho.
- Project subcommittee meetings will be held as needed.

Significant Results:

- Work was completed on one synthesis/preliminary investigation, one webinar, and one SME Topical Discussion. Work continued on another synthesis/preliminary investigation and another SME Topical Discussion. Research ideas for 2026 were canvassed and collected from members. Agenda development was completed for 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).

The discontinuation of Project 25-2 will make \$30,000 originally directed to a 2025 project available for 2026 activities.

Project 25-3 will not be completed by the original May 2026 target date. However, principal data collection work is complete, and data analysis and synthesis is well underway, with initial findings to be presented in May 2026. CTC & Associates will be able to complete this project to WTRC's satisfaction later in 2026.

Potential Implementation:

Three significant efforts were completed this quarter:

- 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
- Project 25-TD-1: HiMod SME Topical Discussion

WTRC members, together with state DOTs in the other AASHTO regions, can put these findings to use in their home agencies. The research results can also inform follow-up activities or research studies for this pooled fund study or other regional or national bodies.