

TRANSPORTATION POOLED FUND PROGRAM QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Date: March 31, 2026

Lead Agency (FHWA or State DOT): Indiana 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 any. List problems encountered, if all tasks, even if no work was done during this period.

Transportation Pooled Fund Program Project # <i>(i.e., SPR-2(XXX), SPR-3(XXX) or TPF-5(XXX))</i> <u>TPF 5-281/TPF 5-436</u>		Transportation Pooled Fund Program - Report Period: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31) <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30) <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30) <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 4 (October 1 – December 31)	
Project Title: Center for the Aging Infrastructure: Steel Bridge Research, Inspection, Training and Education Engineering Center – S-BRITE			
Name of Project Manager(s): Tommy E. Nantung	Phone Number: (765) 463-1521 ext. 248	E-Mail tnantung@indot.in.gov	
Lead Agency Project ID:	Other Project ID (i.e., contract #):	Project Start Date: 9/1/2013	
Original Project End Date: 10/1/2015	Current Project End Date: INDEFINITE	Number of Extensions: None	

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**
\$4,845,000*	\$2,575,044	90%

Quarterly Project Statistics:

Total Project Expenses and Percentage This Quarter	Total Amount of Funds Expended This Quarter	Total Percentage of Time Used to Date**
\$131,382	2.7%	90%

*Additional partners have joined S-BRITE and others have renewed participation; hence total project budget has increased.

**Since end date has been extended, project percentages have been updated (estimates)

Project Description:

The objective is to develop the Steel Bridge Research, Inspection, Training, and Education Engineering Center (S-BRITE Engineering Center) focused on existing steel highway bridges. This National Center will be the first of its kind and will become the leading education, training, research, and engineering center related to all aspects affecting the existing aging steel bridge and structure inventory. Although the Center will be focused on highway bridges, it will also support stakeholders of steel railroad bridges as well as steel ancillary structures, such as lighting towers and sign supports. The Center will contribute to improved asset management decisions for DOTs, FHWA, and other partners relative to existing steel bridge inventory.

This impact will be realized through:

- Research
- Training
- Technical Support

Progress this quarter (includes meetings, work plan status, contract status, significant progress, etc.):

- Continued to provide DEN support to all partners;
- Offered training for partner states/agencies.
- INDOT & S-BRITE continued working to gain approval for the equivalent NSTM training course. Both INDOT and S-BRITE believe we are VERY close to having FHWA approval within the second quarter of 2026.
- The new S-BRITE website has been further updated. Please see <https://www.purdue.edu/engineering/sbrite/>
- Obtained several new specimens for S-BRITE, including “modern” welded plate girders, and very large truss joints from the Corpus Christi Ship Channel bridge. Also, erected a portion of a Bascule Bridge from Michigan. See the attached images.
- Continued to work on the PIN inspection subtask. The draft risk-based report took longer to finalize, but will be circulated to those partner states ASAP.
- Continued work on the Blackhawk Bridge SRM study and submitted a summary report on the work performed to date.

Anticipated work next quarter:

- Offer S-BRITE training to various partners.
- Obtain approval form FHWA for the S-BRITE NSTM class.
- Continue to work on the PIN inspection sub-task and submit draft report for stakeholder review on the likelihood and occurrence factors in the second quarter of 2026.
- Continue to work on updating the S-BRITE website.
- Continue work on the redundancy study associated with the Blackhawk bridge testing.
- Schedule an S-BRITE update webinar.

Significant Results:

1. Training of employees from several State DOT, including the Development of S-BRITE equivalent NSTM training.
2. DEN support has provided solutions to various DOT problems.
3. S-BRITE research results are being disseminated

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).

- One challenge has been the incredible difficulty in obtaining approval of the NSTM class offered by S-BRITE as an NHI equivalent. The overall process has been very cumbersome.

Potential Implementation:

S-BRITE continues to have tremendous impact and benefit for owners, designers, and fabricators of steel bridges.



Corpus Christi Ship Channel Joints



"Modern" Welded Plate Girders



Michigan Bascule Bridge Component