

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: X Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31) Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30) Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30) Quarter 4 (October 4 – December 31)	
Project Title: Aurora Program Management		
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, 2029	Number of Extensions:

☒ 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
\$850,000	\$284,450	50%

Quarterly Project Statistics:

Total Project Expenses This Quarter	Total Amount of Funds Expended This Quarter	Percentage of Work Completed This Quarter
\$113,160		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 questions from Board members and private sector regarding timing of Friends of Aurora meeting.

Shared Fairbanks International Airport air temperature timeseries plot with the Aurora Board.

Addressed question regarding project team creation.

Addressed question from private sector regarding possible presentation to Board.

Summarized recent on-site meeting expenses.

Finalized support budget including administration and travel.

Responded to Clear Roads Pooled Fund request regarding past/current Aurora projects in certain topic areas.

Shared a “Blowing Snow Mitigation Strategies, Prioritization, and Implementation Webinar” with the Aurora Board.

Shared Alaska member photos with the Aurora Board.

Upon FHWA request, shared Weather Data Forum Conceptm and a quarterly virtual Weather Data forum with the Aurora Board for input and possible participation.

Shared “Fast Detection and Prediction of Slippery Roadway Conditions for Enhanced Safety” research report with the Aurora Board.

Shared winter storm event chart with the Aurora Board.

Upon request, coordinated with the Iowa DOT on removal of a former Board member from the pooled fund distribution list.

Provided updated Aurora Board member contacts to Iowa DOT, related to a CTC request for Board input.

Facilitate Meetings and Conference Calls

Distributed invitations for calendar year 2026 Aurora Board meetings.

A primary meeting-related activity this quarter was organizing the Spring 2026 meeting in Richmond, Virginia. This included the following.

- Upon Board approval, finalized meeting location of Richmond, Virginia.
- Finalized arrangements with venue.
- Prepared draft agenda.
- Prepared and distributed draft agenda.
- Continued meeting planning.
- Contacted Virginia DOT staff and invited them to participate in the meeting.
- Organized field trip to IIHS, presentations and meeting space.
- Shared additional information with Board regarding travel scheduling requirements.
- Arranged travel for members (processed travel requests).
- Rented cars for travel during meetings.
- Addressed Board questions.

Organized monthly meetings, including preparing agendas and inviting guests. Held three monthly meetings: January 8, February 12 and March 12.

January 8 Meeting Agenda.

- Welcome & Introductions
- Spring 2026 Meeting
- 2026 Idea Solicitation – Modifications, Recommendations, Timing
- Project Updates
- Support Contract
- Open Discussion
- Wrap Up

February 12 Meeting Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Spring 2026 Meeting
- Fall 2026 Meeting with Friends of Aurora
- 2026 Idea Solicitation – Timeline, Ranking/voting Suggestions, Presentation Format Suggestions, 2027 Update
- Open Discussion
- Wrap Up

March 12 Meeting Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Spring 2026 Meeting
- 2026 Idea Solicitation – Idea Summary, Available Funding, Responses, Ranking Results, Selection of Ideas
- Fall 2026 Meeting with Friends of Aurora
- Open Discussion
- Wrap Up

Requested Board availability for Fall 2026 meeting, including Friends of Aurora. Followed up with Board members individually, as needed.

Upon Board approval, finalized Fall 2026 meeting dates. Also, sent an invitation to Friends of Aurora to save the date(s).

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

Project-Specific Activities

2026 Idea Solicitation

- Received 44 ideas from 18 organizations.
- Prepared idea ranking spreadsheet, which integrated idea title, objective, cost and time and submitting research team.
- Distributed idea ranking spreadsheet, tallied results and facilitated meeting in which Board identified projects for advancing to proposal stage.
- Contacted research teams for eight ideas and requested proposals.
- Contacted research teams for ideas not advanced to proposal stage.
- Addressed questions from research teams, both those submitting proposals and remaining teams. Coordinated with Iowa DOT SPR engineer regarding proposal specific questions.

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

- Provided recommendations regarding acquiring crash data for Iowa. Provided demonstration following the February 11 project meeting. Also, provided sources for possible traffic data and contacted the appropriate Iowa DOT contract.
- Coordinated with the Iowa DOT regarding a research team request to publish a project-related blog post. This included providing input on the proposed post.
- Participated in project meetings.

2025-02 Deployment of Pikalert for Aurora

- Upon request, added two members to the project team and shared with the research team.
- Participated in project meetings.

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

- Hold the Spring 2026 meeting.
- Process reimbursement requests.

Fall 2026 Meeting

- Complete investigation of costs and venues.
- Discuss findings with the Board.
- Select meeting city and contract with venue.
- Provide documentation necessary for members to initiate travel authorizations.
- Update Friends of Aurora and prepare a registration website.

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, host and/or participate in 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.

Facilitate project updates during the Spring 2026 meeting.

2026 Idea Solicitation

- Distribute proposals to Board.
- Share proposal presentations during the Spring meeting.
- Facilitate Board ranking of proposals, discussion and selection.

Circumstance affecting project or budget

Meeting expenses

Significant Results

Activities related to 2026 idea solicitation and request for formal proposals.

Researched expenses for proposed Spring 2026 and Fall 2026 meeting cities. Finalized Spring 2026 meeting city, venue, field trip and agenda. Coordinated member travel to the Spring 2026 meeting.

Participated in meeting for active projects.

Held three monthly meetings.