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 #	**Transportation Pooled Fund Program - Report Period:**
TPF-5(526)	_ Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31, 2026) **X** Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30, 2026) _ Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30, 2026) _ 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:

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 = $1,215,000.00 Current obligated funds = $1,020,000.00 1st contract amount = $546,686.96 2nd contract amount = $74,999.77 Fund balance not on contract = $396,517.10	$317,630.08 (from 1st contract) $74,999.77 (from 2nd contract) $1,796.17 (contract management)	58% (1st contract) 100% (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**
10% (1st contract) 85% (2nd contract)	$56,558.56 (1st contract) $63,783.82 (2nd contract)	54% (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 funding commitments to UDOT early in the respective Federal fiscal year. 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 – None.

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-2: UAS for Noxious Weed Treatments – Planning meetings were held on April 1 and May 11, 2026. CTC & Associates sent emails to several potential DOT participants. Most responded that the proposed timeframe for the event of July or August would not work with their schedules because of their summer workload. The planning team decided to move the Topical Discussion to late fall 2026.
    - At the WTRC Advisory Committee meeting and peer exchange held in Boise, ID from May 19-21 2026, the Advisory Committee selected one research idea, 26-TD-1: NEPA Process – Purpose and Need Training Development, Phase 1, for development into an SME Topical Discussion.
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 & Associates also maintained and added materials to project folders.
    - CTC & Associates collected 2026 research ideas from member states, compiled a ballot, and conducted initial member balloting in advance of the May meeting. CTC & Associates facilitated members' discussion of the submitted ideas, as well as their final selections and planned next steps, at the May meeting. CTC & Associates created an online OneDrive tracking spreadsheet for all funded activities.
    - Project 25-1: Wildlife Fencing Effectiveness in Reducing Crashes
        - Project budget: $75,000; PI: AECOM
        - Final delivery: May 2026
        - AECOM sent the draft final report to the SME subcommittee for review and comment and revised the report based on their feedback.
        - AECOM presented project results to the TAC at the Boise, ID meeting.
        - CTC & Associates reviewed the final report for formatting, performed 508 compliance work and posted the final report on the WTRC website.
    - (Project Year 2026 research is kicking off in July and will appear on the next quarterly report.)
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.
    - The third annual, in-person WTRC Advisory Committee meeting and peer exchange was held in Boise, ID from May 19-21, 2026. Planning included finalizing the meeting agenda, guest presentations, hotel accommodations and meeting logistics, as well as booking attendee flights. CTC & Associates facilitated and documented the meeting and peer exchange. Follow-up activities included posting meeting materials on the WTRC website, finalizing and distributing meeting notes, drafting a peer exchange final report and conducting attendee reimbursements.
    - CTC & Associates made updates to the WTRC website.
4. Technology Transfer. Provide assistance with all technology transfer and communication activities.
    - CTC & Associates finalized the two-page WTRC research brief template and the research report 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.
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
        - Target delivery: Discontinued
        - 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. At the Boise, ID meeting the TAC voted to defund this project. The funds will go back into the general WTRC funds.
    - Project 25-3: Documenting the Research Study Process; Synthesis
        - Project budget: $50,000; PI: CTC & Associates
        - Target delivery: October 2026
        - CTC & Associates:
            - Presented a project update at the Boise, ID meeting.
            - Initiated project Task 4, conduct of surveys and compilation of data:
                - Thirteen of the fifteen states have completed the survey. Half of the survey data was compiled.
    - 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 developed a draft two-page brief for this project.

Meetings

- A peer exchange planning meeting was held with UDOT and CTC & Associates on May 5, 2026. A peer exchange debrief meeting was held with UDOT and CTC & Associates on June 6, 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 & Associates 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
        - CTC & Associates will notify potential participants that a new scheduling poll will be sent in late July to determine availability for a late fall 2026 Topical Discussion.

        - If dates can be established, the planning team will meet to finalize subtopics, presenters and panel members. CTC & Associates will email potential presenters and panel members to secure their participation.
    - Project 26-TD-1: NEPA Process – Purpose and Need Training Development, Phase 1. CTC & Associates will begin planning this topical discussion. Activities will include scheduling and holding meetings with the planning team, deciding on the event format, securing speakers and scheduling the event.
2. Manage Research Projects. Manage the procedural and administrative requirements of research projects.
    - CTC & Associates will confirm member representatives for each selected 2026 research activities, schedule and hold kickoff calls, and begin active management of projects.
    - Starting with the next quarterly report, updates on CTC-managed 2026 research projects will be provided at the project level of detail.
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 revise and publish the final report for the May 2026 WTRC peer exchange.
    - CTC & Associates will schedule the October 2026 TAC call.
    - CTC & Associates will begin researching hotels and meeting space in Anchorage, AK for the 2027 WTRC Advisory Committee meeting and peer exchange.
    - CTC & Associates will continue to make updates to the WTRC website.
4. Technology Transfer. Provide assistance with all technology transfer and communication activities.
    - CTC & Associates will create a two-page brief for 25-1: Wildlife Fencing Effectiveness in Reducing Crashes and begin work planning a webinar and develop a poster for the 2026 NHEC conference.
    - CTC & Associates will finalize the two-page highlight brief for the 25-5: AI Safeguards and Considerations for Research Program and Project Management 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 25-3: Documenting the Research Study Process; Synthesis
        - CTC & Associates will:
            - Complete Task 3, populate the online database on the WTRC website.
            - Complete Task 4, compile survey results.
    - Starting with the next quarterly report, updates on 2026 research projects conducted by CTC & Associates will be provided at the project level of detail.

Meetings

- Project subcommittee kickoff meetings will be held for all 2026 projects.
- UDOT and CTC & Associates will provide a WTRC update at the AASHTO RAC Region IV meeting at the AASHTO RAC Summer Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA on July 17, 2026.

Significant Results:

- Planning, preparation and facilitation of the May 2026 WTRC Advisory Committee meeting and peer exchange was completed and the event resulted in the selection of eight projects in total.

- Work was completed on a two-page WTRC research brief template. The WTRC research report template was also finalized.
- One final report (Project 25-1) and one research brief (Project 25-4) were published.
- The submitted poster for Project 25-4 was accepted by the 2026 National Hydraulic Engineering Conference in Burlington.

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).

Potential Implementation:

This study was completed this quarter:

- Project 25-1: Wildlife Fencing Effectiveness in Reducing Crashes

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.