



North/West Passage Transportation Pooled Fund Study

TPF-5(093)

Q1 2005 Status Report

January – March 31, 2005

Project Description

The North/West Passage Transportation Pooled Fund (TPF) Study is a multi-state cooperative program for the coordination, development, and deployment of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) projects along the I-90 & I-94 corridor. The states of Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin have been in contact since February 25, 2002 discussing the development of a North/West Passage transportation coalition. North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin contributed funding for the development of a Pooled Fund Study. Other I-90 and I-94 states continue to express interest in the North/West Passage Corridor, but do not have funding secured to participate at this time. The Federal Highway Administration serves as a monitoring body, providing strategic, and technical input. The Steering Committee consisting of members from the eight states meet monthly or as necessary to provide overall program direction.

Status/Progress This Quarter and Next Steps

Obligation of Funds for Phase I

Wisconsin is working on obligating funds to the North/West Passage TPF Study.

Next Step: Wisconsin to obligate funds to the North/West Passage TPF Study.

Phase I Projects

The North/West Passage TPF Study is currently pursuing seven projects selected and approved in December 2003 by the membership as outlined in the Work Plan - Phase I Projects. The purpose of the Phase I Projects is to implement and evaluate integrated traveler information systems and coordinate maintenance operations across state borders. A status of Phase I projects from January through March 31, 2005 is included below.

- **Project 1.1 – Integrate North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Minnesota Reporting Systems**

March 2005

- Castle Rock completed the Interface Control Document this is the last task for completion of Project 1.1.

February 16, 2005

- Meridian completed the data feed from Minnesota CARS to North Dakota's reporting system during the third week of February. Travelers now have the option to select Minnesota's 511 systems as an option when they are traveling in North Dakota. Meridian will add Minnesota as a menu option on South Dakota's 511 system if there is no additional cost.

- Under Project 1.1, feeding North Dakota information back to Minnesota will not be completed because North Dakota placed a hold on developing their reporting system. The Interface Control document being developed by Castle Rock will address the technical issues with North Dakota information feeding to Minnesota through a SOAP interface.
- Minnesota CARS is going through revisions and currently be redesign for the next version of CARS. The new system will be addressed in the Interface Control Document.
- Castle Rock is in the process of completing the Interface Control Document this is the last task for completion of Project 1.1.

January 2005

- Work continues on the Interface Control Document. The decision was made to build an output now with the information North Dakota currently provides, since there is not a timeline of when North Dakota will be implementing a reporting system.

▪ **Project 1.2 - Deploy Limited CARS Study Application for Wisconsin**

March 21, 2005

- A summary document highlighting lessons learned was developed by Castle Rock and submitted to the Project Work Team as the final deliverable on March 11, 2005. Wisconsin DOT is intending to continue meeting internally to discuss options for proceeding with a reporting system.

February 2005

- This project is complete. A summary document is being developed by Castle Rock.

▪ **Project 1.5 – Preliminary Design for DMS Deployment on I-94 Eastbound in North Dakota and Project 1.8 – Develop a Communication Plan for the Anti-Icing System to be Installed on the I-94 Bridges at Red River**

Project 1.5 and 1.8 coordinated efforts.

March 2005

- The final Anti-Icing RFP was sent to the vendors on February 8, 2005. The proposals are due March 25, 2005.
- The North/West Passage effort for Project 1.8 is complete.
- The Project 1.5/1.8 Work Team will assist North Dakota in the development of a RFP for the DMS on the I-94 during the summer of 2005 at the same effort of the development of the Anti-Icing RFP.

February 1, 2005 Vendor Meeting

- The group held a meeting with potential anti-icing vendors in Fargo, North Dakota. The North/West Passage project was explained and the group went through the draft RFP in detail in order to discuss the necessary information to complete the RFP. The RFP was then revised to incorporate the discussion of the meeting. The RFP will be sent to the vendors in February. Proposals are due March 25.

January 7, 2005

- The group discussed the draft RFP, communications plan, and draft layouts. It was agreed that the DMS would not be included in the Anti-Icing RFP and that a separate RFP be

developed in the summer for deployment by September. The communication plan and layouts were revised based on discussion from the meeting. The draft RFP was sent to the potential vendors on January 14, 2005. A meeting will be scheduled with the vendors to discuss the RFP.

- **Project 1.6 – Preliminary Design for DMS Deployment at the I-94 Split at Tomah, Wisconsin**

March 2005

- URS submitted a wrap-up report of Project 1.6 during the third week of March for approval. This is the final deliverable for Project 1.6

February 2005

- This project is complete. URS is developing a short wrap-up report.

- **Project 1.9 – Develop a Lessons Learned Document Comparing Requirements for CARS Deployment in Wisconsin to Meridian’s System Deployment in North Dakota**
Project work will occur simultaneously with other Phase I projects.

Next Step: Continue work on Project 1.5 and Project 1.9. Close out Projects 1.1, 1.2, 1.6, and 1.9.

Completed or Tabled Phase I Projects

- **Project 1.3 – Develop Automated Road Condition Reporting System**
Project 1.3 was tabled in July 2003, due to the separate and ongoing Maintenance Decisions Support System (MDSS) project. This project will be revisited when Phase II projects are discussed.
- **Project 1.4 – Provide Integrated Communications Capabilities for North Dakota DMS**
Project 1.4 was tabled in July 2003. North Dakota received grant money to upgrade their signs to National Transportation Communications for ITS Protocol (NTCIP) compliance. This project was completed by North Dakota DOT.
- **Project 1.7 – Develop a North/West Passage Program Website**
This project is complete. A website for the North/West Passage was developed as an outreach tool for the general public and an internal communication tool for project committee members.

Upcoming Meetings

- Steering Committee May 6 and June 30, 2005

Phase II Solicitation and Work Plan

It was agreed that the easiest way to proceed with Phase II was to amend Phase I. The only drawback was that states would not automatically be notified of the solicitation through FHWA’s website. However, a solicitation letter was developed and distributed to the North/West Passage states to inform them of Phase II. The approved Phase II Work Plan was posted on FHWA’s Pooled Fund Study Website and the North/West Passage Website.

The group agreed to proceed by developing a RFP for Phase II (Strategic Plan) and hold off on awarding the contract until funding is secured from the states.

Next Step: North/West Passage states to secure and commit funding for participation in Phase II.

Phase I Financial Summary

Current member commitments for Phase I Projects total \$100,000.

- North Dakota \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Minnesota \$50,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Wisconsin \$25,000 (80/20 I-90/94 Earmark Dollars)

Current funds obligated equal \$25,000. Additional obligation of \$25,000 is expected during the next quarter.

- North Dakota \$25,000
- Minnesota \$50,000

Project Manger

Mark Nelson

Minnesota DOT

651-634-5293

mark.nelson@dot.state.mn.us

Report by: *Tina Roelofs*
URS Corporation

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