

# **SICOP QUARTERLY REPORT**

## **July-September 2004**

### **RWIS/Anti-Icing Computer-Based Training Program**

#### **Background**

This project was identified by AASHTO's Winter Maintenance Policy Coordinating Committee (WMPCC) as two projects, reviewed and evaluated at the Snow and Ice Cooperative Fund Program (SICOP) Workshop held in Minneapolis in April 1997, and given the highest priority by WMPCC at their October 2-3, 1997 meeting. One project was entitled "Anti-icing training for state, county and municipal highway operations" and the other "Road Weather Information System (RWIS) Training". The two subjects were so interrelated that it was decided to combine them into one project, RWIS/AI Computer-Based Training. The objective of the training was to develop and deliver a comprehensive training program on RWIS, anti-icing strategies, snow and ice control materials, equipment and procedures for personnel responsible for deciding the level of service to be provided on highways and streets under winter conditions. Training would utilize a series of realistic scenario-based exercises. Critiques following each exercise would be designed to contribute to new insights by participants, and provide a basis for subsequent exercises. The concept was endorsed by the FHWA's Lead States Program which subsequently formed a Lead States Anti-icing Team. This Team put together the basic course content before the Lead States Program was sunset in September 2000. At that point, the Aurora Consortium stepped forward and put together the Request for Proposal, advertised the RFP, and assisted in selecting the contractor. AASHTO wrote a letter to all member States in June 2000 announcing the opportunity to participate in the pooled fund project. The pooled fund was originally assigned a study number of SPR-3(104) and because of a duplicate number problem was assigned a second number of TPF-5(009). Most of the snow-belt states have joined the pooled fund study. A contract was let in March 2001 and a Technical Working Group (TWG) formed to guide the project. Thirty-one states, APWA, NACE, FHWA, Aurora and the New York State Thruway Authority have joined and have paid or are in the process of paying into the pooled fund. The Technical Working Group (TWG) met with the contractor September 10-13, 2001 in Nevada to review draft storyboards for the seven lessons of the CBT. The contractor completed a draft CD-ROM containing all seven lessons and submitted to the TWG for final comments and approval. TWG was able to complete their review of the first three lessons in summer 2002, lessons 4-6 in mid-March 2003, and Lesson 7 in mid April 2003. In October 2002 the contractor submitted a CD-ROM containing the first three lessons to the State DOTs who joined the pooled fund and asked for their recommendations for any customization they needed. The CD-ROM containing all seven lessons (with additional revisions to lessons 1-3) was submitted May 1, 2003 to the State DOTs asking for their final customization recommendations.

#### **Quarterly Progress**

Progress continues on customizations. Customizations are complete for Wisconsin, Indiana, and Minnesota and Ontario Good Roads Association. Beta customizations have been delivered for Alaska, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, and Washington DOTs. Other states are

in the process of putting their materials together for their customizations. APWA and Ontario Good Roads Association are marketing their generic versions and sales are going well. Sample metric versions have been sent to the City of Calgary and the Provinces of Manitoba, Alberta, and Quebec for their evaluation.

The CBT has received very favorable comments from the DOTs, Provinces and Cities for its valuable contribution to their training programs. The CBT has won awards in two international competitions. In the Summit Creative Awards, the CBT earned a “Silver” award in the 2004 competition. To put that in perspective, over 3,000 entries were submitted from 20 countries. 80 to 84% of the entries do not receive an award, so that puts the CBT in the top 15 to 20% of the entries. Of the award winners, only 5% receive gold, 6-7% receive silver, and 7-9% receive bronze. So out of all the entries, the CBT is recognized as being in the top 10% or so. The CBT was also submitted in the 2004 AXIEM (“Absolute eXcellence in Electronic Media”) Awards competition. The CBT was selected as the winner of the interactive media training category.