

State Planning and Research Program Quarterly Report

PROJECT TITLE: 2011 Clear Roads Administration and Information Services

OBJECTIVES: Clear Roads is a pooled fund research project aimed at rigorous testing of winter maintenance materials, equipment and methods for use by highway maintenance crews. The Clear Roads Technical Advisory Committee contracted with CTC & Associates LLC to perform the administrative functions associated with maintaining the pooled fund project as well as information services that support technology transfer. This report summarizes activities conducted under this contract over the last three months.

PERIOD COVERED: April through June 2011

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: Minnesota Department of Transportation

PROJECT MANAGER: Debra Fick

SP&R PROJECT NO:
96037

PROJECT IS:

LEAD AGENCY: Mn/DOT

Planning
 Research &
Development

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
CTC & Associates LLC

ANNUAL BUDGET:
\$61,726

PROJECT EXPENDITURES TO DATE: \$45,346.75

WORK COMPLETED:

TAC Meetings

- Continued planning for the net face-to-face meeting of the Clear Roads Technical Advisory Committee in St. Paul, Minnesota, which was rescheduled for October 25-27, 2011. Planning included communication with TAC members, meeting logistics and agenda development.
- Coordinated with members of AASHTO, Aurora and PNS on plans for the 2011 Winter Maintenance Peer Exchange, which will be held in Bozeman, Montana, September 19-23, 2011. Planning included teleconferences with the planning committee and communication with TAC members regarding meeting logistics.
- Coordinate a spring teleconference to get updates on Clear Roads research.

Administration and Marketing

- Updated the Clear Roads Web site with current TAC members, project status and meeting information.
- Maintained and updated commitment, obligation, and overall budget information for the pooled fund in coordination with WisDOT and Mn/DOT.
- Supported efforts of TAC members in recruiting new members and talking about Clear Roads at conferences.

Information Services

- Researched and wrote content for the winter maintenance news published in May.
- Finalized and posted the results of the 2010-11 product experience survey on the Clear Roads Web site.
- Write monthly email updates with news regarding Clear Roads research, growth and collaborative activities.
- Drafted and submitted an article on the Liquid Only routes project for *Roads and Bridges* magazine.
- Supported the development of an article on the Multiple Blade Plow Project for *Roads and Bridges* magazine.
- Provided information and review for an article on the Cost-benefit Analysis Toolkit for *Better Roads* magazine.
- Finished drafting research briefs for three recently completed projects.

Research Support

New projects

- Assisted with evaluating responses to RFIs and RFPs for the Improving Snowplow Design, True Costs of Snow and Ice Control and Weather Mapping projects.
- Worked with the subcommittees to develop the scope of work and formal RFPs for 6 research projects selected by the TAC for funding in January and coordinated with Mn/DOT on getting the RFPs posted.
- Facilitated the contracting process in conjunction with Mn/DOT for the True Costs of Snow and Ice Control and Weather Mapping projects.

Research in progress

- Development of a Training Video for Deicer Testing: Coordinated with the project subcommittee and principle investigator to provide feedback on the editing and direction of the deliverables.
- Plug and Play Initiative: Coordinated with the project subcommittee to continue refining the GPS/AVL and material spreader specifications.
- Participated in emails and teleconferences related to developing and populating the Aurora knowledge base.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES EXPECTED TO BE PERFORMED NEXT QUARTER:

- Research, write and publish the August Winter Maintenance E-News.
- Finalize materials and communicate necessary information to the TAC and RSS for the rescheduled meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota on October 25-27, 2011.
- Attend and document the Winter Maintenance Peer Exchange in Bozeman, Montana and assist with travel logistics and reimbursements before and after the meeting.
- Begin planning for the TAC meeting in March: travel logistics, agenda, etc.
- Continue to coordinate and support the RFP development, posting and evaluation process for the 6 new projects that were identified at the January 2011 TAC meeting.
- Continue to coordinate and support the contracting process for the True Costs of Snow and Ice Control and Weather Mapping projects.
- Continue to coordinate with the project subcommittee and principal investigator to complete the Deicing Testing Video project to a close.
- Write monthly email updates with news regarding Clear Roads research, growth and collaborative activities.
- Write two-page briefs for recently completed research projects.
- Maintain the Clear Roads Web site and budget.

STATUS AND COMPLETION DATE:

The current contract expires September 30, 2011.