

State Planning and Research Program Quarterly Report

PROJECT TITLE: 2011-2012 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 (TAC) 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: January through March 2012

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: Minnesota Department of Transportation

PROJECT MANAGER: Debra Fick

SP&R PROJECT NO:
96037

PROJECT IS:

LEAD AGENCY: MnDOT

Planning
 Research &
Development

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
CTC & Associates LLC

ANNUAL BUDGET:
\$92,706

PROJECT EXPENDITURES TO DATE:
\$48,906

WORK COMPLETED:

TAC Meetings

- Finalized plans and materials for the spring TAC meeting: travel logistics, problem statement coordination, final agenda, Clear Roads budget, copies of meeting materials, etc. Participated in the meeting, which took place March 27-29.
- Coordinated and participated in a meeting between stakeholders from Clear Roads, AASHTO, Aurora and FHWA to encourage the development and support of specifications that will enable “plug & play” technology for winter maintenance equipment.
- Started planning for a face-to-face meeting of the Clear Roads TAC on September 25-27, 2012. Planning included communication with TAC members, meeting logistics and agenda development.

Administration and Marketing

- Updated the Clear Roads website 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 February Winter Maintenance E-News.
- Finalized and posted the 2011-12 Product Experience Survey on the Clear Roads website.
- Sent out Clear Roads news and updates each month.
- Established Facebook, Twitter and Flickr accounts for Clear Roads and posted to them.

Research Support

New projects

- Continued soliciting research ideas for Clear Roads funding in 2012 and compiled the results for discussion at the March

meeting.

- Supported MnDOT's contracting process for 4 research projects selected by the TAC for funding in 2011:
 - Cost-benefit Analysis Toolkit Phase 2
 - Determining the Toxicity of Deicing Materials
 - Environmental Factors Causing Fatigue in Snowplow Operators
 - Development of a Totally Automated Spreading System – Phase 1
- Coordinated with MnDOT on the evaluation of proposals for Snow Removal at Extreme Temperatures and also supported the subsequent contracting process.
- Continued to coordinate with investigators and the Clear Roads subcommittees on True Costs of Snow and Ice Control and Weather Mapping Severity Zones projects.

Research in progress

- Development of a Training Video for Deicer Testing: Distributed the DVDs as requested by the TAC.
- Plug and Play Initiative: Coordinated with the project subcommittees and other stakeholders.
- Continued to coordinate with investigators and the Clear Roads subcommittees on True Costs of Snow and Ice Control and Weather Mapping Severity Zones projects.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES EXPECTED TO BE PERFORMED NEXT QUARTER:

- Research, write and publish the May Winter Maintenance E-News.
- Summarize and post online the results of the 2010-2011 Product Evaluation Survey.
- Draft meeting minutes and other follow-ups from the spring meeting.
- Complete literatures searches and assist the TAC in developing scopes of work for the new projects selected for funding at the March meeting.
- Continue planning for the TAC meeting in September: travel logistics, final agenda, etc.
- Coordinate and support the RFP development and evaluation process for new projects.
- Continue to coordinate with investigators and the Clear Roads subcommittees on projects in progress.
- Prepare booth materials for the SCOM meeting as directed by the TAC.

STATUS AND COMPLETION DATE:

The current contract expires September 30, 2012. CTC is on track and within budget on all deliverables.