

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: April - June 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:
\$67,353

WORK COMPLETED:

TAC Meetings

- Continued 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.
- Began planning for a face-to-face meeting of the Clear Roads Technical Advisory Committee on May 7-9, 2013 in Jackson, Wyoming.
- Drafted meeting minutes and followed up on action items from the spring meeting.

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 May Winter Maintenance E-News.
- Worked with the TAC to gather results from the 2011-12 Product Experience Survey on the Clear Roads website.
- Sent out Clear Roads news and updates each month.
- Completed literature searches for new projects selected for 2012 funding.

Research Support

New projects

- Worked with the subcommittees to develop the scopes of work and formal RFPs for the following 5 research projects selected by the TAC for funding in March:
 - Establishing Effective Salt and Anti-icing Application Rates
 - Understanding the Chemical and Mechanical Performance of Snow and Ice Control Agents on Specialized

Pavement Types

- Snowplow Operator and Supervisor Training
- Comparison of Materials Distribution Systems - Phase I
- Improving Snowplow Design
- Coordinated with MnDOT on getting the RFPs posted for Comparison of Materials Distribution Systems - Phase I and Improving Snowplow Design.
- Worked with MnDOT and WSDOT to determine the best way to transfer funds to the PNS pooled fund as voted upon by the Clear Roads TAC.
- Coordinated with MnDOT to finalize the contracts for the following research projects:
 - Snow Removal at Extreme Temperatures
 - Environmental Factors Causing Fatigue in Snowplow Operators
- Coordinated with the principal investigators and subcommittees to kick off the Snow Removal at Extreme Temperatures project.

Research in progress

- 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
 - Weather Mapping Severity Zones projects.
 - Determining the Toxicity of Deicing Materials
 - Cost-benefit Analysis Toolkit Phase 2
 - Development of a Totally Automated Spreading System – Phase 1

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES EXPECTED TO BE PERFORMED NEXT QUARTER:

- Research, write and publish the August Winter Maintenance E-News.
- Summarize and post online the results of the 2011-2012 Product Evaluation Survey.
- Work with the TAC to finalize the scopes of work and get RFPs posted for the new projects selected for 2012 funding at the March meeting.
- Continue planning for the TAC meeting September 25-27, 2012 in Saratoga Springs, NY: travel logistics, final agenda, etc.
- Coordinate and support the evaluation process for the proposals received for projects selected for 2012 funding.
- Continue to coordinate with investigators and the Clear Roads subcommittees on projects in progress.
- Write monthly email updates with news regarding Clear Roads research, growth and collaborations.
- Write a two-page brief for the Weather Severity Mapping research project, which will be completed on July 31, 2012.
- Maintain the Clear Roads website and budget.

STATUS AND COMPLETION DATE:

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