



North/West Passage Transportation Pooled Fund Study

TPF-5(093)

Q4 2004 Status Report

October – December 31, 2004

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

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.

Informational Letter

An information letter was distributed in October to selected multi-state coalitions and FHWA individuals indicating that the North/West Passage website is up and running and to look at this site for further information on this pooled fund study.

Informational Presentations

During the November 10, 2004 I-10 Freight Corridor Study Meeting in Los Angeles, CA, Mark Nelson of Mn/DOT gave a presentation on the status of 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 October through December 31, 2004 is included below.

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

December 2004

- Meridian is still working out a few issues with ingesting Minnesota's data to use in North Dakota's System. However, it should be completed and up and running in the next few weeks.
- North Dakota has put a hold on their statewide 511 project. Part of the original scope of work for Project 1.2 was to build an output program to deliver North Dakota data to Minnesota. The next step is to determine if we build a current output now and then again once RCRS is constructed in North Dakota or wait for RCRS.

October 13, 2004 Work Team Meeting

- Meridian has a few refinements to complete prior to making Minnesota road condition information available to North Dakota. The goal for turning on the ingest system is November 1, 2004.
- Castle Rock produced a Draft Interface Control Document for the group to review. The document addresses how different reporting systems use the recommended standards. The end users of the document will be the developers in each state that would build the standards into their reporting system. This document is a blueprint that each software team would need to develop. The document is 99% generic, meaning that if another reporting system is in use for a state, the document could be easily adapted and modified to fit any state in the North/West Passage. The next draft of this document will include information on how to get information out of CARS.

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

December 15, 2004 Work Team Recap Meeting

- A recap of Project 1.2 was presented by Castle Rock. The presentation focused on a recap of the project objective, the training, the trial period, and lessons learned with other deployments of condition reporting systems across the country.
- The trial period indicated that the users were unanimous in endorsing a reporting system. Each district would benefit from the timesavings.
- The group concluded the meeting indicating that the trial period of CARS was successful and the next step is to meet internally in Wisconsin to begin discussion on moving towards a reporting system or revamping the 1-800-ROADWIS telephone number.
- Castle Rock will develop a summary document of Project 1.2 for the North/West Passage corridor.

November 10, 2004 Work Team Meeting

- The group discussed the training held on November 9, 2004. There was an issue with operators being able to access the system via the web. The Wisconsin DOT staff worked on correcting the problem. The start date of the trial period was pushed back to November 17, 2004.
- The group indicated that based on the feedback from the operators, Wisconsin DOT staff will need to assess recommendation for moving towards a reporting system or revamping the 1-800-ROADWIS telephone number.

November 9, 2004 CARS Training in Eau Claire, Wisconsin

- 2 training sessions were held, with a total of 10 operators participating
- A training manual was provided to assist operators as different options and scenarios were stepped through

- The training focus on explaining Project 1.2 of the North/West Passage Project, describing CARS, demonstrating the system, and hands on entry of the system.
- **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.

December 16, 2004

- The group discussed the Red River Bridge Anti-Icing RFP. NDSU and URS will work to develop text to include regarding the anti-icing communication and DMS communication. A decision document was sent out to the group to assist in identifying how many cameras etc. to specify in the RFP.
- A draft RFP will be finalized the first week in January and sent to the vendors for their input during mid-January. Proposals will be due March 25.
- The group discussed possible anti-icing vendors.
- Work will continue on the architecture as the communication options are finalized.

October 20, 2004

- North Dakota held an internal meeting to review the draft Anti-Icing RFP on October 4, 2004. The draft RFP will be sent out at the beginning of January 2005. North Dakota will meet with vendors in mid-January to fill in information in the RFP. Proposals are due March 25, 2005. The chosen vendor will design the anti-icing system. The RFP will include communication for the anti-icing system along with communication to the DMS. URS will assist by providing a plan overview of device locations and a plan detail of the bridge deck and structure to include in the RFP.
- The group discussed the architecture for Project 1.5/1.8. North Dakota would like to see a concept of operations for the future Fargo TOC. There is a concern that we proceed with the architecture for this project at the same pace North Dakota DOT is proceeding with their architecture and concept of operations. We are committed to do the design for the DMS, but want to make sure it complements the plan for the TOC in Fargo.
- **Project 1.6 – Preliminary Design for DMS Deployment at the I-94 Split at Tomah, Wisconsin**

December 9, 2004

The group discussed the stages of a Concept of Operations in Wisconsin and summarized the project deliverables. The group agreed that Project 1.6 has gone as far as it can go. The next step is to develop a short wrap-up report for Wisconsin to use as work continues on projects such as the TOP project.

October 12, 2004

The group reviewed the Preliminary Concept of Operations. The revised document is a working document and once key concepts are agreed upon the document will be developed further. The document included high-level purpose of the document, quick project and system overview, a diagram depicting a high-level project concept of operations, descriptions on areas of operational impact, and scenarios. The group commented on the document and it was decided to place this project on hold until further work is completed on the Traffic Operations Plan (TOP) project in order for the two documents to compliment each other.

- **Project 1.9 – Develop a Lessons Learned Document Comparing Requirements for CARS Deployment in Wisconsin to Meridian’s System Deployment in North Dakota**
A kick-off meeting has not been scheduled. Project work will occur simultaneously with other Phase I projects.

Next Step: Continue work on Project Work Teams.

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 January 5 and February 18, 2005
- Project 1.1 Work Team February 16, 2005

Phase II Projects

The Phase II Work Plan was developed by the corridor Steering Committee, which has representation from all states along the corridor. The proposed project ideas given highest priority through the Steering Committee voting exercises could all be described as planning efforts with a broader corridor-wide scope. It was determined that these projects could be combined into what we are calling the North/West Passage ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan. The key elements of this plan will include;

- the development of a corridor architecture with a focus on center-to-center data sharing across state borders,
- an inventory of communication infrastructure for the entire corridor,
- a coordinated concept of operations for the sharing of traveler information across state borders. Suggested projects for the corridor to pursue will be identified.

The Phase II Work Plan was approved by the membership in December 2005.

Next Step: Develop a Solicitation Letter for participation in Phase II. Post the Phase II Work Plan on FHWA’s Pooled Fund Website and the North/West Passage Website.

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

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