



QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

September 30, 2005

Pooled Fund Project: TPF-5(092)

Title: Test and Evaluation of Materials, Equipment and Methods for Winter Highway Maintenance

Web site: <http://www.clearroads.org>

Project Description

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. Created by seasoned winter maintenance engineers in 2004, Clear Roads responds to a need for research based on practical experience. By conducting structured field testing and evaluation across a range of winter conditions and highway maintenance organizational structures, Clear Roads projects will deliver immediately useful data and recommendations on the effectiveness, ease of use, optimum application rates, durability, and more, of many advanced winter operations technologies.

Activity This Quarter

Meetings

The Clear Roads Technical Advisory Committee met in Madison, Wisconsin on July 13 and 14, 2005 to finalize RFP scoring, select research project investigators, and provide state updates.

Administration

Updated Clear Roads brochure and Web site, presented information about Clear Roads at national meetings.

Submitted NCHRP problem statement through Tom Martinelli at WisDOT to support research on the performance of carbide blade inserts.

Prepared to implement WisDOT's new billing procedures for handling pooled fund contributions.

Research Projects

Clear Roads worked with WisDOT Purchasing to select investigators for the following two projects:

- Calibration of Ground-Speed-Controlled Salters
- Assessment of Windshield Anti-fogging/Anti-frosting Practices for Winter Maintenance Vehicles

Contracting was nearly finalized this quarter. Work is scheduled to begin for each project next quarter.

Work Next Quarter

- Finalize contracts with selected vendors
- Update Clear Roads Web site
- Plan for February meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Continue recruitment and marketing efforts

Membership

Below are the current TAC representatives from each of the seven member states.

- Tom Martinelli, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Committee Chair
- Dennis Burkheimer, Iowa Department of Transportation
- Benjamin Zwart, Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Timothy Jackson, Missouri Department of Transportation
- Dennis Belter, Indiana Department of Transportation
- Tim Croze, Michigan Department of Transportation
- Diana Evans, Ohio Department of Transportation

Budget

Available funds

Funds committed to date:	\$400,000
Funds obligated to date:	\$250,000
Total available funds by 12/05:	\$350,000

Estimated expenses for 2005

Administrative contract for 2005:	\$29,000
<u>Estimated travel and supplies expenses for '04/'05:</u>	<u>\$17,000</u>
Total estimated expenses for 2005:	\$46,000

Actual expenses to date

Clear Roads August 2004 Meeting (travel, meeting room)	\$479.92
Ben Zwart attendance at PNS Corrosion Forum	\$868.58
Clear Roads February TAC Meeting	\$3,648.49
Clear Roads July TAC Meeting	\$3,894.11
Clear Roads Supplies and Printing	\$46.42
Clear Roads Administration	\$14,500.00
Total expenses to date	\$23,437.52

Estimated funds available for research projects

\$350,000 (obligated by 12/31/05) - \$46,000 (estimated expenses) = **\$304,000***

*Available funds include the \$25,000 that Michigan contributed through the Winter Concept Vehicle pooled fund. This portion is not available for all Clear Roads projects—only those specifically related to snow plow design and technology.