

# Quarterly Project Report

Center for Transportation Studies

**Project Title: National Accessibility Evaluation**

**Quarter: January 01 - March 31, 2016**

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**CTS Project # :** 2016016

**Contract # :** 99008

**Work Order # :** 208

**Project Authorization Date :** 7/2/2015

**Project Expiration Date:** 8/31/2016

**Principal Investigator**

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**Co-Investigator:** Mathison, Arlene

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**TL:** Deanna Belden

**CTS PL** Elizabeth Andrews

**Funding Source(s):**

State Pooled Funds

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**Task Update:**

**1 Communications and Technical Advisory Panel Management**

Each year, the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies will maintain and update the Accessibility Observatory website and discussion list, publish research reports and summaries based on the products of Task 4, coordinate media relations for two campaigns (online media kit, press releases, e-mail announcements, social media posts), and arrange for quarterly meetings (three conference calls and one in-person meeting held in conjunction with TRB for the first year) of the technical advisory panel (TAP). CTS will maintain a TAP membership list, invite TAP members to the meetings, develop meeting agendas, and distribute minutes of the meetings. CTS will also assist with the preparation of quarterly reports that will be presented at each TAP meeting. This budget does not include travel expenses for TAP members.

**Deliverables :** Summary of all communications and Technical Advisory Panel activities for each year.

**Task Budget :** \$39,160.00

**Task Due Date :** 5/1/2016 (Calculated)

**Date Delivered :** 3/14/2016

**Date Approved :** (CTS received task approval)

**Task Approved :** No

**Progress:**

CTS arranged the Q1 quarterly meeting on January 12, which was held in-person at the TRB Annual Meeting. Seven member agencies were represented. Meeting notes have been distributed. CTS is in the process of planning the Q2 meeting to be held on 4/12.

CTS also provided updates to the AO website during this time and created new written materials for the program. No research reports were ready to be published during this time period.

**% Task Complete:** 50

**2 Collect Input Datasets**

The research team will collect up-to-date network and speed datasets describing the road and transit transportation networks in the study area, as well as destination counts at the block level or smaller resolution.

**Deliverables :** Summary report of datasets collected.

**Task Budget :** \$137,384.00

**Task Due Date :** 8/1/2015 (Calculated)

## **Project Title: National Accessibility Evaluation**

**Quarter: January 01 - March 31, 2016**

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### **Task Update:**

*Date Delivered :* 9/30/2015

*Date Approved :* 10/6/2015 (*CTS received task approval*)

*Task Approved :* Yes

*Progress:*

*% Task Complete:* 100

### **3 Calculate Accessibility Datasets**

The research team will calculate accessibility datasets using travel times and land use data collected in Task 2 to represent typical conditions in the previous calendar year.

*Deliverables :* Accessibility datasets delivered to project partners.

*Task Budget :* \$55,384.00

*Task Due Date :* 10/1/2015 (*Calculated*)

*Date Delivered :*

*Date Approved :* (*CTS received task approval*)

*Task Approved :* No

*Progress:*

Accessibility calculations were delayed due to a data format updated from TomTom, who provides the national road network and speed dataset. To incorporate the new data format into our existing tools we needed to develop test software to make comparisons between the two datasets. This also helps to ensure consistency in future annual data releases. This is now finished and calculations are resuming.

*% Task Complete:* 80

### **4 Prepare Accessibility Reports**

The research team will prepare reports summarizing and describing accessibility patterns in the jurisdictions of each project partner, as well as a single national "Access Across America" report for each mode. The research team will provide the participating agencies a copy of the national reports at least two weeks in advance of their being released to the public. Local reports will be delivered directly to project partners, and the national report will be published and publicized to national media outlets.

*Deliverables :* National "Access Across America" reports; local reports for each project partner.

*Task Budget :* \$73,844.00

*Task Due Date :* 1/1/2016 (*Calculated*)

*Date Delivered :*

*Date Approved :* (*CTS received task approval*)

*Task Approved :* No

*Progress:*

Accessibility report preparation was delayed due the input data format change discussed in Task 3. While waiting for the evaluation of the new data format, the research team prepared report templates for use once the full data is available.

*% Task Complete:* 50

### **5 TAP Review of Results and Methodology**

After each year's data and report publication is complete, the project TAP will meet to review and comment on project methodology and scope. The research team will collect feedback from the TAP members, with a focus on continually improving the data, reporting, usefulness, and scope of the project. TAP members will have an opportunity to share local experiences in the use of accessibility data. This TAP meeting will be scheduled and located to coincide with relevant conferences or professional meetings (such as AASHTO committee annual meetings or the annual TRB meeting). Teleconferencing participation options will also be provided.

## **Project Title: National Accessibility Evaluation**

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### **Task Update:**

*Deliverables* : TAP meeting minutes and proposed enhancements for next data/reporting update

*Task Budget* : \$36,922.00

*Task Due Date* : 3/1/2016 (*Calculated*)

*Date Delivered* :

*Date Approved* : (CTS received task approval)

*Task Approved* : No

*Progress*:

Due to the delays discussed in tasks 3 and 4, the TAP was not able to review the project results and methodology at the January meeting. This is scheduled to take place at the April meeting.

% Task Complete: 0

### **6 Compile Report, Technical Advisory Panel Review and Revisions**

A draft report will be prepared, following MnDOT publication guidelines, to document project activities, findings and recommendations, potential implementation opportunities, illustrative projects, and benefits to participating agencies. This report will need to be reviewed by the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP), updated by the Principal Investigator to incorporate technical comments, and then approved by Technical Liaison before this task is considered complete. Holding a TAP meeting to discuss the draft report and review comments is strongly encouraged. TAP members may be consulted for clarification or discussion of comments.

*Deliverables* : A Draft Report and Final Report Approved for Publication and presentation slides

*Task Budget* : \$55,384.00

*Task Due Date* : 4/30/2016 (*Calculated*)

*Date Delivered* :

*Date Approved* : (CTS received task approval)

*Task Approved* : No

*Progress*:

### **7 Editorial Review and Publication of Final Report**

During this task the Approved Report will be processed by MnDOT's Contract Editors. The editors will review the document to ensure it meets the publication standard. This task must be completed within the Contract time because the editors will provide editorial comments and request information from the Principal Investigator.

*Deliverables* : Final Published Report and presentation slides

*Task Budget* : \$36,922.00

*Task Due Date* : 6/30/2016 (*Calculated*)

*Date Delivered* :

*Date Approved* : (CTS received task approval)

*Task Approved* : No

*Progress*:

### **Future Plans:**

**Project Title: National Accessibility Evaluation**

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***Problems Encountered/Actions Taken:***

In January we were notified by TomTom of a data format change which affects some of the primary input datasets for this project. Because correctly handling the new data format was important to ensure the best continuity between this year's accessibility data and future updates, we delayed progress on tasks 3, 4, and 5 until we were able to incorporate the new data format and compare it to the old data format.

***Students:***

<u>Name</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>	<u>Degree Program</u>	<u>Degrees</u>	<u>Graduation Date</u>
Brendan Murphy	murph677@umn.edu	Masters		9/30/2015
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