

## TRANSPORTATION POOLED FUND PROGRAM QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Lead Agency (FHWA or State DOT): Iowa Department of Transportation

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

*Project Managers and/or research project investigators should complete a quarterly progress report for each calendar quarter during which the projects are active. Please provide a project schedule status of the research activities tied to each task that is defined in the proposal; a percentage completion of each task; a concise discussion of the current status, including accomplishments and problems encountered, if any. List all tasks, even if no work was done during this period.*

<b>Transportation Pooled Fund Program Project #</b> TPF-5(290)	<b>Transportation Pooled Fund Program - Report Period:</b> Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31, 2018) Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30, 2018) Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30, 2018) X Quarter 4 (October 1 – December 31, 2018)	
<b>Project Title:</b> Aurora Program		
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<b>Lead Agency Project ID:</b> RT 0034	<b>Other Project ID (i.e., contract #):</b> Addendum 156	<b>Project Start Date:</b> January 1, 2013
<b>Original Project End Date:</b> May 31, 2019	<b>Current Project End Date:</b> – May 31, 2019	<b>Number of Extensions:</b>

Project schedule status:

On schedule     
  On revised schedule     
  Ahead of schedule     
  Behind schedule

Overall Project Statistics:

Total Project Budget	Total Cost to Date for Project	Total Percentage of Work Completed
\$1,975,000	\$629,894.85	

Quarterly Project Statistics:

Total Project Expenses This Quarter	Total Amount of Funds Expended This Quarter	Percentage of Work Completed This Quarter
\$25,333.68	N/A	

## **Project Description:**

The Aurora Program is a consortium of public agencies focused on collaborative research, evaluation, and deployment of technologies for detailed road weather monitoring and forecasting. Members seek to implement advanced road weather information systems (RWIS) that fully integrate state-of-the-art roadway and weather forecasting technologies with coordinated, multi-agency weather monitoring infrastructures; ultimately lessening adverse impacts of inclement weather.

**Progress this Quarter (includes meetings, work plan status, contract status, significant progress, etc.). These efforts are identified below.**

### Program Administrative Activities:

- Completed all Fall 2018 meeting details (financial, contract, reimbursements).
- Addressed all board correspondence, administrative items resulting from meetings.
- Provided program management in terms of projects and program budgets.
- Planned all of the Spring 2019 pre-meeting details.
- Provided appropriate Aurora Pooled fund-related materials (historic and future) for existing member agencies and possible new members.
- Held joint meeting with Iowa DOT regarding finalizing current pooled fund, TPF-5(290) and began planning for a new (continued) pooled fund.
- Provided draft language for pooled fund (continuation) solicitation.
- Developed a management scope for CY 2019, submitted scope for review and initiated contracting process with Iowa DOT.

### Facilitate Meetings and Conference Calls:

- Finalized details for Fall 2018 meeting field trips, including Ohio State University and Ohio DOT.
- Invited speakers to Fall meeting and finalized agenda.
- Established schedule and contacted Friends of Aurora regarding participation in the Fall 2018 meeting.
- Coordinated the Fall 2018 meeting and provided transportation between venues, i.e. Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio State University and conference hotel.
- Processed travel arrangements for all invited guests and Aurora members for Fall 2018 meeting.
- Processed all travel-related reimbursement for invited guests and Aurora members for Fall 2018 meeting.
- Paid final hotel invoice for Fall 2018 meeting in Columbus, Ohio.
- Prepared and distributed Fall 2018 meeting minutes.
- Began planning for Spring 2019 meeting in San Diego, including:
  - Coordinating with CalTrans regarding availability of facilities.
  - Identifying possible conference hotels and requesting draft contracts.
  - Identifying availability of Board members.
- Prepared Board meeting presentations.
- Prepared Aurora overview presentation for members to present at various conferences and meetings.
- Facilitated discussions via [auroraboard@iastate.edu](mailto:auroraboard@iastate.edu), such as related to RWIS equipment and liquid only winter maintenance.
- Participated in 2020 joint TRB/Peer Exchange discussions.
- Continued monthly Board meeting calls to generate research ideas and discuss important issues. Conference calls were hosted on:
  - November 8, 2018, 2018
  - December 13, 2018 – This meeting included participation by TRANSCOM (a regional transportation management committee centered in NJ, NY). After the recent large storm, their members were interested in reaching out to Aurora for some discussion and perhaps potential membership.

### Processing Travel Requests, Travel Reimbursements, and Meeting Expenses:

- Scheduled travel for Fall 2018 meeting in Columbus, Ohio.
- Processed travel arrangements for all invited guests and Aurora members for Fall 2018 meeting.
- Processed all travel-related reimbursement for invited guests and Aurora members for Fall 2018 meeting.
- Paid final hotel invoice for Fall 2018 meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

#### Project-Specific Activities:

- Tracked project status and prepared a summary for recently completed, active, and all prospective new projects.
- Obtained non-invasive sensor details and cost estimates from pertinent vendors (Vaisala, High Sierra Electronics, Lufft and Boschung) for project planning and scoping purposes related to potential project “2018-02 Invasive and Non-Invasive Sensors”.
- Regarding “2018-1 RWIS Life Cycle Cost” project:
  - Requested and obtained proposal from contractor.
  - Reviewed proposal and requested feedback from Aurora project champion.
  - Requested updated proposal from contractor, based on feedback.
  - Obtained updated proposal from contractor.
  - Initiated contracting process.
- Continued work associated with assuming control and management of the RWIS training tool (Amazon Web Service), including monthly billing.
- Coordinated with current research project principal investigators to obtain abstracts for an Aurora-related poster session at the 2019 TRB Annual Meeting.
- Posted final report for “2014-02: Quantifying Salt Concentration on Pavement, Phase 2”.
- Participated in project update conference call “2016-02 Winter Severity Index support to Clear Roads”.
- Submitted draft project report “2015-05 Survey of best practices in Data Storage” to InTrans publications group for editing.
- Added Frost Control Systems to Friends of Aurora and distributed pertinent information the Aurora Board.

#### **Anticipated work next quarter:**

#### Program Administrative Activities:

- Continue planning and making arrangements for Spring 2019 meeting.
- Continue working with new and potential members.
- Continue to assist the Iowa DOT with pooled fund solicitation.

#### Facilitate Meetings and Conference Calls:

- Continue monthly Board meeting calls to generate research ideas and discuss important issues.
- Facilitate project correspondence and status reports.
- Continue planning efforts for coordinating Spring 2019 meeting.

#### Processing Travel Requests, Travel Reimbursements, and Meeting Expenses:

- Contract for the 2019 Spring meeting hotel.
- Make travel arrangements for Board members to attend Spring 2019 meeting.

#### Project-Specific Activities:

- Complete scope and budget for “2018-02 Invasive and Non-Invasive Sensors”; investigate which non-invasive sensors may be used by each state; initiate equipment procurement.
- Expand list of prospective projects.
- Project updates for each project and research team.
- Track project status with champions and team members.
- Track project timelines and distribute project materials.
- Update project status reports.
- Finalize and post “2015-05 Survey of best practices in Data Storage” final report.

#### **Significant Results:**

- Worked with members and invited guests to arrange for travel to the 2018 Fall meeting.
- Purchased air travel and establish hotel rooming list.
- Made final meeting arrangements for food, field trips, meeting space, speakers.
- Processed all travel-related reimbursement for invited guests and Aurora members for Fall 2018 meeting.
- Paid final hotel invoice for Fall 2018 meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

- Continued monthly Board meeting calls, including participation from outside agencies.
- Posted final report for “2014-02: Quantifying Salt Concentration on Pavement, Phase 2”.
- Provided language for pooled fund solicitation.
- Advanced “2018-1 RWIS Life Cycle Cost” to contracting stage.
- Obtained non-invasive sensor details and cost estimates from pertinent vendors (Vaisala, High Sierra Electronics, Lufft and Boschung) for project planning and scoping purposes related to potential project “2018-02 Invasive and Non-Invasive Sensors

**Circumstance affecting project or budget:**