

**Deer-Vehicle Crash Information and Research Center (DVCIR Center)**  
**RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING: September 30, 2007**

<b>Pooled Fund Program Number: TPF- 5 (120)</b>	<b>Part: II Research and Development</b>
<b>Project Title: Deer-Vehicle Crash Information and Research Center</b> <b>Technical and Administrative Contact: Keith Knapp, TTI</b>	<b>Project IDs (Internal): 402531, 402521</b> <b>Sponsors: IA, CT, MD, MN, NY, OH, TX, WI, and FHWA</b>
<b>FHWA Lead Agency Contact: Mary Gray, FHWA</b>	<b>Approved Starting Date: 3/19/07 (Admin. Contract)</b> <b>Approved Ending Date: 3/19/09 (Admin. Contract)</b>

**Description:** The Deer-Vehicle Crash Information and Research Center (DVCIR Center) was created to continue the tasks being completed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation multi-state Deer-Vehicle Crash Information Center (DVCIC). The center will also fund research projects as defined by the participating pooled fund members. A commitment of \$10,000 to \$25,000 per year and a two-year involvement were requested for participation. Available funds (per [www.pooledfund.org](http://www.pooledfund.org)) currently total \$320,000 and include \$50,000 from MN, NY, OH, WI, and IA. WI has also provided the project with the use of their DVCIC website ([www.deercrash.com](http://www.deercrash.com)). An additional \$10,000 has been committed by CT and MD, and \$25,000 from TX and the FHWA. Additional funds from for the second year of participation from CT, MD, and TX would total \$45,000. NH has also recently indicated their wish to join the fund at the \$10,000 per year level (which is expected to occur in the near future). Two 2-year contracts, totaling \$130,000, were initiated between TTI and the FHWA (the lead agency) on March 19, 2007 for the continuation of DVCIC activities and administration activities of the DVCIR Center. Contracts for the completion of the research portion of the project with the remaining available funds (\$190,000 with the potential for another \$45,000) will follow. The kick-off meeting for the pooled fund was January 30, 2007 in MN and the administration contracts started March 19, 2007. The kickoff meeting was funded by the Southwest University Transportation Research Center.

The lead agency of this pooled fund is currently the Federal Highway Administration Office of Natural and Human Environment.

**Progress This Quarter (plus previous work):**

The following activities have occurred between July 1 and September 30, 2007:

- Finalized clearinghouse continuation activities deliverables and schedule document.
- Finalized “entry” fee structure document.
- Finalized problem statements for two of four potential research project subjects (from “kick-off” meeting). Two versions of one of these first two problem statements were completed based on committee comments. Worked on the draft third problem statement (to be completed in October). Fourth problem statement to be developed.
- As work continues on finalizing last two problem statements - working to advance problem statements to contract stage. Objective is to have one start by beginning of 2008. [Committee decided to advance only two projects at October meeting (next quarter). One problem statement is complete and the other has yet to be started.]
- Held conference call to determine final approval of above and select fall annual meeting dates. States indicated need to contract work and that FHWA and TTI to determine how that could be done.
- Continued to answer questions from the media, etc (e.g., National Geographic, Waterbury, CT newspaper, Appleton, WI newspaper).
- Continued to request past (10 years) and current data from all states. Updates provided from some.
- Summarized, clarified, and checked data for 10 states and updated/created information for website.
- Worked on design of a “new” website for pooled fund section and updates/improvements to remainder. Focused on data updates. Also added 2007 meeting section. Updated some formatting, links, and fixed problem links. Complete update of website not in budget, but plan to update pooled fund section of site to include summary information – objectives and possibly meeting minutes, quarterly reports, and research progress and reports.
- Planning work started with two states on fall meeting schedule and location. Meeting held October 29, 2007 in Schenectady, NY. Business meeting followed.
- Contacted speakers, contacted all state research administrators, planned travel for meeting, and developed agenda along with food, etc. plans for October meeting. Developed post-meeting press release. Provided this release to states.
- Identified three sponsors for fall meeting: Southwest University Transportation Center, AAA Minnesota/Iowa, and Western Transportation Institute
- Continued to discuss pooled fund participation with individual states and other organizations as opportunities arose.
- Texas and Maryland joined the pooled fund.

- Continued to collect additional or new “research” documents for potential review and addition as addendum to countermeasure toolbox. Some to be presented at October meeting and summarized by the end of the year (for website inclusion). Only “significant” documents and/or those that include new knowledge will be summarized.
- Started to collect potential articles for first version of clearinghouse newsletter (first edition expected in January 2008)
- Discussed ideas of related projects with TxDOT
- Will continue with FHWA lead, but state DOT lead still an option

**Approximate Percentage of Project Complete:** Approx. 12% (for \$130,000 administrative contracts out of \$320,000 committed). Generally on schedule to end contract on 3/19/09.

**Work Next Quarter (October – December 2007):**

- Complete final research project problem statements and update other statement that was chosen for advancement in the October meeting (the other two problem statements/subjects will not be advanced or will be addressed in another manner).
- Work toward contract to start working on one or both of the proposed research projects.
- Hold fall annual meeting with speakers and sponsors. Held in NY in October.
- Respond to requests for information and potential state visits.
- Finalize 2006 state for all 10 states.
- Critique/Update website with pooled fund site section, data, paper evaluations as completed, and any other improvements as needed (e.g., links, document summaries, etc.)
- Initially proposed creation of information brochure for state use. Was to be included in education/outreach problem statement. This was one of the problem statements dropped from further advancement. Consider creating as part of DVCIR Center administrative duties.
- Design and initiate Deer-Vehicle Crash Reduction Information newsletter (Potential title: “The Buck Stops Here”).
- Continue to pursue additional members and funding (state, non-profit, national, and international)

**Circumstances affecting progress/budget:**

- Negotiations for the initial contracts took longer than expected, but are now in place for part of the funding committed.
- The method of contracting for the research portion of the funding is being determined. Several approaches are being explored with FHWA. Current contracts for administration of clearinghouse activities.
- Finalization of problem statements can take a significant time if major comments received. Current problem statements level of work based on funds available versus funds that may be committed in the future (see first paragraph). Additional work or additions to projects may be possible if Year 2 funds become available in new fiscal year. Committee decided to advance only two of four subject areas identified in January 2007.
- Newsletter kick-off delayed until 2008 and production of state brochure on DVC problem was included with extension/outreach project. This project, however, was dropped from further consideration. Possibly complete brochure text as part of administrative contracts.

