

## 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, 2019) X Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30, 2019) Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30, 2019) Quarter 4 (October 1 – December 31, 2019)	
<b>Project Title:</b> Aurora Program			
<b>Project Manager:</b> Tina Greenfield		<b>Phone:</b> 515-233-7746	<b>E-mail:</b> tina.greenfield@dot.iowa.gov
<b>Project Investigator:</b> Neal Hawkins		<b>Phone:</b> 515-294-7733	<b>E-mail:</b> hawkins@iastate.edu
<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:

X 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	\$673,797.65	

**Quarterly** Project Statistics:

Total Project Expenses This Quarter	Total Amount of Funds Expended This Quarter	Percentage of Work Completed This Quarter
\$43,902.80	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:

- Addressed all board correspondence, administrative items resulting from the Spring 2019 meeting.
- Provided program management in terms of projects and program budgets.
- Began planning for the Fall 2019 pre-meeting (including financial and contract) and meeting details.
- Processed all Spring 2019 meeting reimbursements.
- Supported release of new TPF solicitation (<https://www.pooledfund.org/Details/Solicitation/1496>)
- Followed up with New Jersey regarding Aurora. A conference call is still pending.
- Participated in planning calls for 2020 International Road weather and Winter Maintenance Conference & Peer Exchange.
- Updated the Aurora website (<https://aurora-program.org/>), following the content freeze. This included addressing issues with links to project reports and listing of active projects.
- Tabulated results of Board feedback regarding project ideas.
- Distributed scopes of work for four possible projects. Solicited Board votes via Survey Monkey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WKLSPWZ>), facilitated by Tina Greenfield.
- Addressed request for PDH or CEU for Spring 2019 meeting attendance. A certificate of attendance was provided.
- Shared information regarding the Aurora Pooled Fund regarding budget, accomplishments, projects, etc. This information was used by agencies to justify continued participation.

### Facilitate Meetings and Conference Calls:

- Began planning for Fall 2019 meeting, including dates and locations. This included soliciting Board feedback via WhenIsGood (twice), email and conference call.
- Identified Tampa, Florida as the Fall 2019 meeting location for October 8 – 10 and began investigating venue options.
- Initiated contracting with the hotel for the Fall 2019 meeting. Anticipated completion is early next quarter.
- Established schedule for monthly Board meeting calls to generate research ideas, discuss important issues and receive project status reports.
- Facilitated discussions via [auroraboard@iastate.edu](mailto:auroraboard@iastate.edu), specifically related to RWIS equipment. During this quarter information regarding “Winter Operations and RWIS Staffing” practices was discussed.
- Completed and distributed Spring 2019 meeting minutes.
- Hosted Board member conference calls on:
  - May 9, 2019
    - Welcome
    - Fall meeting location
    - Finalize non-invasive quantities
    - San Diego Meeting Minutes
    - Mini-RWIS article for e-News
    - New project ideas to be voted on
    - Website access
    - Industry interaction
  - June 13, 2019

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

- Processed Spring 2019 meeting reimbursements.

#### Project-Specific Activities:

- Tracked project status and prepared a summary for recently completed, active, and all prospective new projects.
- 2018-01 Road Weather Information Systems Life Cycle Cost Analysis
  - Distributed invoices to project team for review and approval.
- 2018-02 Non-Invasive Sensors
  - Initiated contract.
  - Worked with ISU Procurement Services regarding bidding options.
  - Provided feedback on ISU Procurement Services draft request for quote.
  - ISU Procurement Services issued the request for quote.
  - Began receiving quotes from vendors.
  - Shared equipment specifications with Board members.
  - Solicited Board member input regarding non-invasive sensor preferences (for their agency) and necessary components if any, e.g. pole, cable. This was done via email and phone.
  - Purchase order was issued for Boschung sensors. Purchase orders for other vendors are expected to be issued early next quarter.
- 2015-05 Road Authority Practices in Data Storage Survey
  - Completed report review and editing.
    - Posted the project report on the Aurora website (<https://aurora-program.org/research/completed/road-authority-practices-in-data-storage-survey/>)
- 2018-01 RWIS Life Cycle Cost Analysis
  - Shared invoices with project team for comment and approval.
  - Project team approved Task 1 Tech Memo.
  - Project team approved Task 2 Spreadsheet
- 2016-03 Optimal RWIS Sensor Density and Location – Phase II
  - Quarterly reports have been received, monitored and shared with the project team.
- 2014-01 Demonstration and Inter-comparison of Seasonal Weight Restriction Models, Phase II – No update.
- Continued work associated with assuming control and management of the RWIS training tool (<http://aurorabase.iteris.com/login/?destination=/>), including monthly billing.

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

#### Program Administrative Activities:

- Continue planning and making arrangements for Fall 2019 meeting.
- Continue Aurora website updates.
- Follow up with states, such as New Jersey, about possible membership.
- Continue to address mechanisms for Friend of Aurora (FOA) engagement.
- Manage budget.
- Track new solicitation contributions.
- Participate in planning calls for 2020 International Road weather and Winter Maintenance Conference & Peer Exchange.

#### 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 Fall 2019 meeting.

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

- Complete contracting for the 2019 Fall meeting hotel.
- Process Board travel, e.g. airlines reservations.

#### Project-Specific Activities:

- Issue purchase orders for remaining non-invasive sensors.
- Finalize voting on prospective projects and initiate contracts.
- Expand list of prospective projects and develop scopes of work.

TPF Program Standard Quarterly Reporting Format

- Project updates for each project and research team.
- Track project status with champions and team members.
- Track project timelines and distribute project materials.

**Significant Results:**

- Finalized Fall 2019 meeting location and dates.
- Processed all Board travel reimbursements from Spring 2019 meeting.
- Begin contracting with hotel for Fall 2019 meeting.
- Continued monthly Board meeting calls.
- Completed one project (2015-05) and published results.
- Began 2018-02 Non-Invasive Sensors project, including identified non-invasive sensor types and quantities and began the procurement process. One purchase order was issued.
- Continued updating Aurora website following content freeze.

**Circumstance affecting project or budget:**