



North/West Passage  
Transportation Pooled Fund Study  
TPF-5(093)  
Q1 2007 Status Report  
January 1 – March 31, 2007

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**Project Description**

The North/West Passage Transportation Pooled Fund (TPF) Study is a multi-state cooperative program for the coordination, development, and deployment of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) along the I-90 and I-94 corridor. The states of Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin began meeting in February 2002 to discuss the development of a North/West Passage multi-state transportation program. The states formally established as a TPF Study through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in 2003. FHWA serves as a monitoring body, providing strategic and technical input. Minnesota serves as the Program Administrator and a Steering Committee consists of one representative from each of the states that have financially contributed to the effort. The Steering Committee meets monthly or as necessary to provide overall program direction.

North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin contributed funding for the execution of a Phase 1 work plan. The Phase 1 work plan included eight projects, the purpose of which was to implement and evaluate integrated traveler information systems and coordinate maintenance operations across state borders. Individual reports for the projects completed under the Phase 1 work plan are available online at [www.nwpassage.info](http://www.nwpassage.info). A full Phase 1 summary report is also available online.

Additional contributions have since been made by all of the states for the execution of a Phase 2 work plan, which focused on developing a strategic plan for the corridor. Focusing on traveler information and maintenance operations, the plan presents an inventory of ITS deployments in the corridor; provides a high-level architecture; analyzes targeted concepts/solutions; and, proposes a coordinated deployment and operational concept for traveler information systems and maintenance operations across state borders. The Steering Committee elected to wait until the strategic plan is further developed before identifying a more complete list of projects for further implementation in the corridor.

The balance of funds contributed during the Phase 2 solicitation will next be applied to a Phase 3 work plan, which is currently being developed by the Steering Committee.

**Status/Progress This Quarter and Next Steps**

- **Project 2.1 – ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan**  
The strategic plan will present an inventory of ITS deployments in the corridor; provide a high-level architecture; analyze targeted concepts/solutions; and, propose a coordinated deployment and operational concept for traveler information systems and maintenance operations across state borders. The plan will also consider current ITS industry interests such as the Clarus initiative and 511.

The contract for this project was awarded to the SEH Team (SEH, Telvent Traffic North America, Inc. [formerly PB Farradyne] and TranSmart Technologies) in November 2005. Late in 2006, Athey Creek Consultants was also added to the SEH Team to support development of chapters 7 and 9 in the strategic plan. The contract was further amended in January 2007 to have the SEH Team support an annual meeting, complete preliminary design for a web site, conduct

interviews with maintenance staff in the corridor, and take inventory of center-to-center communications data. These additional tasks were primarily added to supplement the projects proposed in chapters 7 and 8 of the strategic plan.

The interviews with maintenance staff were conducted and a summary report was submitted by the SEH Team. The web site preliminary design was also completed by the SEH Team with input from Washington DOT, Montana DOT and Minnesota DOT. The preliminary design was further reviewed and approved by the full Steering Committee. However, the center-to-center data inventory task was canceled in late February because the corresponding project to develop a center-to-center communications concept of operations was not selected for the Phase III work plan. An inventory of this nature should be completed as close to or as part of the actual project that would use the inventory.

The chapter “Develop Concept of Operations and Deployment Strategy (chapter 9)” was also finalized this quarter and all the preceding chapters were incorporated into one complete document for review and comment by the Steering Committee at their annual meeting in February 2007. These comments were incorporated into a final draft of the plan, and an executive summary and introduction were created by the SEH Team in late March.

<b>Strategic Plan Tasks</b>	<b>Estimated Start</b>	<b>Estimated Finish</b>
1. Project Management, Administration and Coordination	Mon 10/17/05	Thu 11/30/06
2. Complete Technology Inventory (chapter 1)	Mon 11/14/05	Thu 2/16/06
3. Identify Issues, Problems and Needs (chapter 2)	Mon 1/16/06	Fri 3/10/06
4. Establish Goals, Objectives and Vision (chapter 3)	Mon 1/16/06	Fri 3/10/06
5. Concepts, Potential Solutions and Desired Functions (chapter 4)	Mon 2/13/06	Fri 4/21/06
6. Assess Technology (chapter 5)	<del>Mon 3/20/06</del> Mon 5/22/06	<del>Mon 5/22/06</del> <del>Thu 8/24/06</del> Mon 10/23/06
7. Develop Corridor Architecture (chapter 6)	<del>Mon 5/22/06</del> Thu 4/20/06	<del>Wed 9/13/06</del> Thu 6/29/06
8. Identify Traveler Information and 511 System Integration (chapter 7)	<del>Mon 5/22/06</del> Thu 7/20/06	<del>Tue 8/1/06</del> <del>Thu 9/21/06</del> Thu 11/30/06
9. Identify Maintenance and Operations System Integration (chapter 8)	<del>Mon 5/22/06</del> Thu 9/21/06	<del>Wed 9/13/06</del> Thu 10/19/06
10. Develop Concept of Operations and Deployment Strategy (chapter 9)	<del>Mon 6/19/06</del> Thu 10/19/06	<del>Thu 9/21/06</del> Thu 11/16/06
11. Prepare Strategic Plan	<del>Mon 9/18/06</del> Thu 11/16/06	<del>Mon 11/20/06</del> Thu 1/25/07
12. Maintenance Operations – Lessons Learned Workshop Baseline Data Gathering	Mon 1/8/07	Wed 2/7/07
<del>13. Center-to-Center Communications Concept of Operations Data Type and Format Inventory</del>	<del>Wed 2/28/07</del>	<del>Mon 6/4/07</del>
14. North/West Passage Annual Meeting Support	Wed 2/7/07	Thu 2/8/07

- Annual Meeting Conducted  
An annual meeting was held February 7-8, 2007, in Fargo, ND. The primary purpose of the meeting was to review the full strategic plan and discuss/select projects for the Phase 3 work plan. Seven of the eight states attended the first day of the meeting, and all of the states were present during the project discussion/selection on the second day of the meeting.
- Clarus Proposal Status  
In late January, FHWA contacted Dave Huft, South Dakota DOT, to let him know that the proposal submitted on behalf of the North/West Passage is being evaluated. FHWA also requested additional information on staffing, contractor support, sensor data, state commitments, and cost estimates. In February, letters of commitment were solicited from each of the member states and submitted, along with answers to the other questions raised by FHWA. No further update or inquiries were received from FHWA through March.
- Corridors of the Future Announcement  
Mark Nelson was received a fax on February 1, 2007 from James D. Ray of FHWA that North/West Passage was not selected to move forward with Phase II of the Corridors of the Future Program Application. FHWA received 38 Phase I proposals and has selected 14 proposed projects, located on eight major transportation corridors to advance to the next stage of the selection process.
- Program Administration Changes  
In early March, Mark Nelson announced that he had accepted a new position in the Office of Investment Management at Mn/DOT. Program Administration was transferred to Ginny Crowson in light of his departure. Ginny has been involved with the TPF since its inception and the transition was accomplished smoothly. Also in early March, our TPF Administrative Liaison, Jim Klessig, passed away. As Administrative Liaison, Jim facilitated our solicitation process, finances, and coordination with FHWA. The Administrative Liaison role has been temporarily assumed by Ann Mclellan from Mn/DOT's Research Services Section.

#### Status/Progress Anticipated Next Quarter

- Project 2.1 – ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan  
The final plan will be submitted to Mn/DOT's Research Service Section for formal acceptance and publication.
- Phase 3 Work Plan  
The Phase 3 Work Plan will be finalized. The Steering Committee plans to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for execution of the projects outlined in the work plan. Before the end of the quarter, proposals should be evaluated, a contractor should be selected and contract negotiations should be completed.
- Clarus Proposal Status  
It is hoped that formal selection will be completed by FHWA before the end of the next quarter.

#### Phase 1 Work Plan Financial Summary

Member commitments for Phase 1 Projects totaled \$100,000.

- North Dakota \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)

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- Minnesota \$50,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Wisconsin \$25,000 (80/20 I-90/94 Earmark Dollars)

**Phase 2 and Phase 3 Work Plan Financial Summary**

The eight states in the corridor committed \$400,000 through the solicitation associated with the Phase 2 Work Plan. Following is a summary of financial contributions by members through March 31, 2007. Because funding is comprised of various state and federal sources, FMIS will track SP&R dollars and Mn/DOT will administer and track other state and federal dollars through partnership agreements with the corresponding states.

- Idaho \$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)
- Minnesota \$100,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Montana \$25,000 (Source TBD)
- North Dakota \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars-Partially Obligated)
- South Dakota \$50,000 (SP&R Dollars-Not Yet Obligated)
- Washington \$50,000 (State Dollars)
- Wisconsin-\$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)
- Wyoming \$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)

Of the \$400,000 in contributions, \$188,149 has been committed to-date to the following expenses:

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|--|-----------|
| • Project 2.1 – ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan | \$173,379 |
| • Travel   | \$10,500  |
| • Web Site Maintenance                                 | \$4,270   |

The balance of \$211,851 will next be applied to the Phase 3 work plan being developed by the Steering Committee.

**Project Manager (Program Administrator)**

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*Report by: Ginny Crowson, Mn/DOT*  
*Submitted: April 9, 2007*