

TPF-5(312) Western Maintenance Partnership

Final Summary Report – October 2020

By: Daniel Page, UDOT Director of Maintenance & Facility Management

Background

In the 1980's the Rocky Mountain Maintenance Tour established a highly effective forum for the exchange of information, techniques, policies and strategies for the maintenance of the Highway System. Since that time the role of Maintenance as a critical element in the overall management of the State Highway infrastructure has increased. Most Maintenance managers have been completely replaced since the ending of the Rocky Mountain Maintenance Tour. The primary focus has also shifted from new construction and major rehabilitation to more attention to infrastructure preservation and asset management via cost effective maintenance. Reactive maintenance alone is not adequate to overcome the challenges of rapid deterioration of roads, considering aging of the infrastructure and growing economic constraints.

Transportation Pooled Fund Study No. TPF-5(312), the Western Maintenance Partnership (WMP), has run from 2014 to 2019 and will be closed. The WMP pooled fund is continuing with study number TPF-5(394). The pooled fund previously ran from 2006 to 2014 as TPF-5(145). It has been a worthwhile project for the WASHTO Committee on Maintenance in which the participating agencies pooled their efforts to provide a focused look at Maintenance, and partnered with WASHTO states to share experiences, innovations, expertise and solutions to the complex management of highway assets. Maintenance issues addressed include policies, practices, specifications, field investigations, applied research, materials, and training. Key elements of the annual meetings have included roundtables and sharing of field experience via hands-on demonstration of features.

Objectives

The purpose of the current WMP is to provide a partnering forum for promoting effective maintenance strategies through the following objectives:

- Provide funds for a multi-day annual workshop for discussion and exchange of information and knowledge about each state's maintenance program.
- Provide a means to define, support and share technology of mutual interest.
- Provide funds for formal training presentations during the annual workshop.
- Provide funds for management support of WMP.
- Provide funds for special studies, investigations, research and training.

Participants

Several agencies contributed funding to the TPF-5(312) pooled fund. These included the following:

- California Department of Transportation
- Idaho Transportation Department
- Montana Department of Transportation
- Nevada Department of Transportation
- Oklahoma Department of Transportation
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Utah Department of Transportation (Lead Agency)
- Washington State Department of Transportation

Several agencies also benefitted from the pooled fund activities and resources, whether in attending associated annual meetings and scan tours or in receiving travel or hosting assistance from the pooled fund for these events. These meetings included the WASHTO Committee on Maintenance. Agencies that received travel or hosting funds from the past and current versions of the pooled fund include the following:

- Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
- Arizona Department of Transportation
- California Department of Transportation
- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Idaho Transportation Department
- Montana Department of Transportation
- Nevada Department of Transportation
- North Dakota Department of Transportation
- Oklahoma Department of Transportation
- Oregon Department of Transportation
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Utah Department of Transportation
- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Wyoming Department of Transportation

As the lead agency for this pooled fund, UDOT created a checking account to assist the agencies that are hosting the annual conference to access and deposit funds as needed to help in acquiring the accommodations, catering, and other services as needed. Every year a deposit was made to this checking account that comes directly from the pooled fund. The location of the annual conference and the expected number of attendees determined the amount to be deposited into the checking account.

Accomplishments

Many ideas have been shared and implemented by a number of states as a result of the annual meetings. This program has helped build a working relationship in the WASHTO states that promotes sharing of ideas and providing help with changing problems. Proceedings of the annual meetings and scan tours were prepared and made available to the participants. Following is a list of the annual WASHTO Committee on Maintenance meetings and scan tours which the pooled fund helped to support:

- Under the previous pooled fund study number:
 - 2006: Meeting held in Utah. Scan tour held in Colorado.
 - 2007: Meeting held in Nevada. Scan tour held in Alaska.
 - 2008: Meeting held in Oregon. Scan tour held in Wyoming.
 - 2009: Meeting held in Arizona.
 - 2010: Meeting held in Wyoming.
 - 2011: Meeting held in Nebraska. Scan tour held in Oregon.
 - 2012: Meeting held in California.
 - 2013: Meeting held in Idaho.
 - 2014: Meeting held in Colorado.
- Under the pooled fund study number TPF-5(312):
 - 2015: Meeting held in Oklahoma.
 - 2016: Meeting held in Washington.
 - 2017: Meeting held in Texas.
 - 2018: Meeting held in Nevada.
 - 2019: Meeting held in California.

The Plan Going Forward

In working recently with FHWA and this pooled fund, it has been determined that this TPF-5(312) phase of the pooled fund project will need to be closed. A new pooled fund has been set up under TPF-5(394), and UDOT will again take the lead in administering this process. It is anticipated that the new pooled fund will operate in a similar manner in supporting the WASHTO Committee on Maintenance.