

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

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

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 for a two-year commitment was requested of participating states. Officially committed funds (per www.pooledfund.org) total \$285,000 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). An additional \$10,000 has been committed by CT and \$25,000 from the FHWA. The state of MD, with approval of the other members, has agreed to enter the pooled fund with “in-kind” project activities for one year, and NH recently indicated their wish to join the fund at the \$10,000 per year level. Two 2-year contracts, totaling \$130,000, were initiated on between TTI and FHWA 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 with the remaining funds will follow. The kick-off meeting for the pooled fund was January 30 in MN. It 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 pre- and post-March 2007:

Pre-March, 19, 2007 Contract

- Transferred and initiated www.deercrash.com website to local location (Fall 2006).
- Small updates to website describing change in project and pooled fund. Updated regional data and added OH data. Confirmation of defining criteria of data from other states needed to add others (see below). (Fall 2006).
- Added Deer-Vehicle Crash Reduction Strategic Agenda to website (Summer 2006).
- Continued to answer numerous media/other/email requests for information (Fall/Winter 2006/2007 and continuous). People with new ideas/equipment, need for data, and fund requests.
- Presented deer-vehicle collision work at Transportation Research Board Meeting, January 2007. One paper to be published in Transportation Research Board Journal. Member of Ecology and Transportation Committee.
- Presented at the South Dakota Insurance Alliance annual meeting (Fall 2006).
- Continued work as part of the NCHRP 25-27 Wildlife Crossing Use and Effectiveness study team (lead by Utah State University).
- Pursued completion of SAFE-TEA animal collision study. Was awarded to WTI (Summer 2006).
- Pursued TxDOT participation in pooled fund (Fall/Winter 2006/2007)
- Proposed and received \$10,000 from the Southwest University Transportation Center (SWUTC) to assist with funding two pooled fund annual meetings and investigate Texas deer-vehicle collision problem. This funding was used to fund

the meeting mentioned below. This dollar amount was later matched by \$10,000 from the Center for Transportation Safety (if needed for use).

- MD joined, as approved by funding members, with “in-kind” activities for first year. Second year entry to be negotiated.
- Organized and held “kick-off” meeting for pooled fund in MN in January 2007. Funded by SWUTC organization mentioned above. Summarized meeting content and output. Four potential research project subjects (from approximately 40-50 ideas) chosen for advancement.
- Negotiated pooled-fund clearinghouse continuation contracts with FHWA (finalized March 19, 2007).

Post-March 19, 2007 Contract

- Drafted clearinghouse continuation activities deliverables and schedule documents (sent to members for comment).
- Drafted “entry” fee structure document (to be sent to members for approval).
- Drafted and reviewing problem statements from two of four potential research project subjects (from “kick-off” meeting) and drafting first version of other two problem statements. To be reviewed by members and decisions about advancement determined.
- Continued to answer questions from the media, etc.
- Requested data from all states. Working on summary table for each state and all members (DVCIC and DVCIR Center). Acquiring defining criteria. Review of state data will occur soon by members (for accuracy, etc.) before website addition. Most states have 2005 data. Previous 10 years of data collected and summarized as possible.
- Working on design of a “new” website for pooled fund section and updates/improvements to remainder. Proposed to include summary information, schedule/deliverables, meeting minutes, quarterly reports, and research progress and reports. Critiquing original portion of website for updates. Data and links, project review updates etc. to be included in original portion of website.
- Discussion with Utah DOT connection for possible involvement. Potential trip to Utah for additional discussion. Proposed potential partnering relationship with U. of Georgia deer-vehicle collision research group.
- Completed NCHRP 25-27 wildlife safety project work with Utah State University.
- Presented deer-vehicle crash Work at International Conference on Ecology and Transportation.
- NH has indicated a wish to enter the fund at the \$10,000 per year level.
- Proposed two locations for October/November annual meeting - Albany or Hartford. Will schedule and plan this in next quarter.
- Continued to collect additional “research” documents for potential review and addition as addendum to countermeasure toolbox. Only “significant” documents and/or those that include new knowledge will be summarized. Others will be noted if bibliography updated.
- Discussed potential for State DOT lead of pooled fund for research portion, but will continue with FHWA lead.

Approximate Percentage of Project Complete: Approx. 8% (for \$130,000 administrative contracts out of \$285,000 committed). Generally on schedule to end contract on 3/19/09.

Work Next Quarter (July - September 2006):

- Complete research projects problem statements and submit for member review.
- Begin contracting negotiations for completion of one or more research projects.
- Schedule and plan fall annual meeting. Attempt to acquire sponsors for more complete participation at meeting. Schedule speakers as budget/sponsorship allows.
- Respond to requests for information and potential state visits.
- Submit for review and finalize 2005 state and regional crash/carcass data and include 2006 information when available.
- 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.)
- Design/Propose information brochure for state use (potentially part of one research project). Including pooled fund discussion and location for “local” data.
- 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. Contracting for the research portion funding will be determined by the members (e.g., how many projects, how they are completed, and their content/tasks) in the coming months.