

Transportation Pooled Fund Program Quarterly Progress Report

TPF-5(201) New England Transportation Consortium (V)

October – December, 2009

Background: This is a transportation research program, where research projects are conducted primarily by the Land Grant Universities of the New England states. This study was preceded by TPF-5(168), SPR-3(089), SPR-3(029), and SPR-3(009). The objective is to pool the financial, professional, and academic resources of the region and to use them to research and develop improved methods of dealing with common problems in the planning, design, construction, maintenance, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and operation of transportation systems in the participating states. The program is intended to supplement, not to replace, on-going state and federal research activities and other national programs such as the Cooperative Research Programs of the National Academies.

In 2008 the existing Lead State Coordinator (Connecticut DOT) announced they were no longer in a position to act as the lead. In early 2009 in an effort to maintain the existing program the FHWA CT-Division Office offered to take over the program and assume duties as the lead entity. Thus, the establishment of Project TPF-5(201).

Progress This Quarter:

- As previously reported last quarter, FHWA CT-DIV Office cannot continue to be the lead of this study and has been working closely with the NETC Advisory Committee and FHWA, HQs to look at possibilities for transferring NETC lead state coordinator responsibilities to another organization. The Vermont DOT in cooperation with their FHWA VT-DIV Office has volunteered to serve as the NETC lead state beginning in 2011. As such, the VT DOT has initiated a new Pooled Fund Project, TPF-5 (222), in which they are presently soliciting commitments from the New England State DOTs.
- The FHWA CT-DIV office will still assist with any university studies started by the previous NETC lead state agency that for various reasons are not yet finished but for contractual reasons, could not be given time extensions by CT DOT. To date the FHWA CT-DIV, working closely with Contracting at FHWA HQs has initiated 6 research studies in this category, with one additional contract in the process of being initiated next quarter. These time extension contracts are being executed using the funds previously established in SPR-3 (089) for these research studies.
- To date no appropriated funds in TPF-5(201) have been spent.

Products Delivered This Quarter:

None

Planned Activities Next Quarter:

- The FHWA CT-DIV Office will continue to work with the NETC Advisory Group and the VT DOT in assisting them in assuming duties as the new lead coordinator. Once VT DOT's new pool fund project TPF-5 (222) has adequate financial commitment we will look at de-obligating funds out of TPF-5 (201) and eventually closing out this pooled fund project.