



North/West Passage
Transportation Pooled Fund Study
TPF-5(093)
Q3 2008 Status Report
July 1 – September 30, 2008

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. 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 has been applied to a Phase 3 work plan. The Phase 3 work plan includes five projects that focus on continuing to develop, expand implementation, and evaluate integrated traveler information systems. The projects also continue the understanding and development of coordinated maintenance operations across state borders.

Status/Progress This Quarter

Phase 3 Work Plan Projects

The Phase 3 Work Plan is available online at: <http://www.nwpassage.info/about/workplan.php>. Building on several projects recommended in the ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan for North/West Passage, the Phase III Work Plan presents a series of projects targeted for completion in 2007-2008. The projects continue to develop, expand implementation and evaluate integrated traveler information systems. They also continue the understanding and development of coordinated maintenance operations across state borders. The progress of the five projects to be completed under the Phase 3 Work is summarized in the next several bullets.

- **Project 3.1: Corridor-Wide Consistent Major Event Descriptions**

The intent of Project 3.1 is to develop a set of corridor-wide consistent event descriptions that can be used by each North/West Passage state to describe events, and ultimately support a very effective exchange of event descriptions to benefit the corridor-wide website and traveler information systems operated within each state. The committee agreed that the project would focus on identifying consistent event descriptions for the four event types:

- 1. Weather conditions (i.e., road surface, precipitation, etc.)*
- 2. Vehicle restrictions*
- 3. Road work*
- 4. Incidents*

During this quarter work continued to gather additional information from each state to complete the document. Information gathered included states' plans to make changes as a result of the draft report. States also provided additional comments to the draft report regarding the translations phrases.

The North/West Passage group also began work on developing a presentation for the World Congress/ITS America Annual Meeting where Project 3.1 will be presented.

- Project 3.2: Clarus Regional Demonstration Concept of Operations

Clarus is an initiative to develop and demonstrate an integrated surface transportation weather observing, forecasting and data management system, and to establish a partnership to create a Nationwide Surface Transportation Weather Observing and Forecasting System.

During this quarter the final Clarus report was submitted to summarize the project and identify lessons learned.

- Project 3.3: CAD to Reporting System Integration – Workshop

The intent of this project is to conduct a workshop for North/West Passage members to learn the details about the challenges, issues, lessons learned, benefits and costs integrating CAD with reporting systems.

This project is complete. The summary of the March 12 Workshop, along with supporting reference materials is available through the North/West Passage program web site (<http://www.nwpassage.info/projects/phase3/proj3/>).

- Project 3.4: North/West Passage Traveler Information Web Site

Project 3.4 focuses on developing a traveler information web site for travelers on the I-90/I-94 Corridor from Wisconsin to Washington. In March 2007, a Preliminary Design Document was developed for a North/West Passage Corridor-Wide Advanced Traveler Information System (ATIS) Website. This document will be revised and used as a basis for developing the website.

A project team was identified to meet outside of the Steering Committee meetings to focus on the details of Project 3.4 and provide overall guidance for the project. The Project 3.4 Team consists of Bill Legg, Brandi Hamilton, Ginny Crowson, Ed Ryan, and the consultant staff.

The website is live and is available at: www.i90i94travelinfo.com. Outreach materials developed by the group continue to be distributed to assist each state with informing potential users of the website.

- Project 3.5: Cross Border O&M Collaboration – Workshop
The intent of this project is to conduct a workshop for North/West Passage member states to further collaborate operations and maintenance activities at the borders.

A summary of the workshop was distributed to the May 20 and 21, 2008 workshop attendees. Each state continues to develop an action plan based on information gained at the workshop.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee provides overall program direction. The committee held three teleconference meetings during the 3rd Quarter. The following bullets summarize the meeting discussions.

- Steering Committee Meeting on August 12, 2008
A Steering Committee Meeting was held on August 12, 2008. The primary focus of this meeting was to provide an update on the Phase 3 projects and discuss funding commitments for moving forward with Phase 4 projects. Meeting material and minutes are available online at: www.nwpassage.info/viewmeet.php?id=82.
- Steering Committee Meeting on September 16, 2008
A Steering Committee Meeting was held on September 16, 2008. The primary focus of this meeting was to provide an update on the Phase 3 projects and the pooled fund administration. Meeting material and minutes are available online at: www.nwpassage.info/viewmeet.php?id=83.
- Steering Committee Meeting on September 25, 2008
A Steering Committee Meeting was held on September 25, 2008. The primary focus of this meeting was to elect a new Steering Committee Chair, validate administration in Minnesota, and select direction for contract support. Meeting material and minutes are available online at: www.nwpassage.info/viewmeet.php?id=84.

Status/Progress Anticipated Next Quarter

- Steering Committee Meetings on October 14, November 18, and December 9, 2008
The Steering Committee is scheduled to meet again in October, November and December to finish remaining work on the Phase 3 projects and initiate the fourth work plan.
- Project 3.1: Corridor-Wide Consistent Major Event Descriptions
Project 3.1 will focus on incorporating comments provided by each state as well as following up with each state as appropriate to discuss the recommended translation phrases identified in the draft report.

Project 3.1 will also focus on finalizing a presentation for the World Congress/ITS America Annual Meeting in November.
- Project 3.2: Clarus Regional Demonstration Concept of Operations
Project 3.2 was completed at end of September 2008.
- Project 3.3: CAD to Reporting System Integration – Workshop
Project 3.3 was completed.

- Project 3.4: North/West Passage Traveler Information Web Site
Each North/West Passage state will continue outreach efforts for the website.
- Project 3.5: Cross Border O&M Collaboration – Workshop
Each state will work on developing an action plan from the discussion at the workshop. A follow-up conference call will be held on October 7, 2008 to continue discussions on creating action plans and provide the opportunity for state updates on cross-border collaboration.

Phase 1 Work Plan Financial Summary

The following commitments were made during the Phase 1 solicitation.

- North Dakota \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Minnesota \$50,000 (SP&R Dollars), plus \$102,576 (State funds)
- Wisconsin \$25,000 (80/20 I-90/94 Earmark Dollars)

The primary expense associated with the Phase 1 solicitation was a contract with URS Corporation to provide program support and deliver projects in the Phase 1 Work Plan which is available online at: www.nwpassage.info/about/workplan.php. The contract totaled \$202,576.

Phase 2 and Phase 3 Work Plan Financial Summary

The eight states in the corridor committed \$450,000 through a Phase 2 solicitation. Following is a summary of the financial contributions by individual members. 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 \$150,000¹ (SP&R Dollars)
- Montana \$25,000 (Source Unknown)
- North Dakota \$25,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- South Dakota \$50,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Washington \$50,000 (State Dollars)
- Wisconsin \$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)
- Wyoming \$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)

Of the \$450,000 in contributions received through the Phase 2 solicitation, in addition to \$15,000 in Peer-To-Peer funding for Project 3.3, \$434,949 has been committed to the following expenses to-date:

¹ While updating financial records in preparation for the March 11 annual meeting, it was discovered the Minnesota had actually contributed \$150,000 in Phase 2, vs. the previously reported \$100,000.

North/West Passage TPF Study
Q2 2008 Status Report

Expenses

Contract-Short Elliott Hendrickson-Project 2.1	\$	173,379
Contract-University of North Dakota-Project 3.2	\$	37,500
Contract-Athey Creek-Program Support and Projects 3.1, 3.3-3.5	\$	179,886
Contract-NDSU-Web Site Management (March 2006-February 2008)	\$	4,270
Contract-NDSU-Web Site Management (March 2008-February 2010)	\$	4,792
Travel-2006 Annual Meeting	\$	4,827
Travel-2007 Annual Meeting	\$	5,087
Travel-2008 Annual Meeting (estimate)	\$	10,000
Travel-Project 3.5 (estimate)	\$	20,000
Total Expenses	\$	439,741

Note: \$173,379 was originally allocated to the contract with SEH to complete the ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan. However, the contract was completed at the cost of \$162,220, which will allow an estimated \$11,159 to remain in the pooled fund budget for reallocation to Phase 3. This number is estimated until final audit is completed by Mn/DOT.

These expenses are associated with the Phase 2 and Phase 3 Work Plans. Full copies of the work plans are available online at: www.nwpassage.info/about/workplan.php.

Project Manager (Program Administrator)

Ginny Crowson
Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT)
651-234-7058
ginny.crowson@dot.state.mn.us

*Report by: Tina Roelofs, Athey Creek Consultants
Submitted: October 1, 2008*