

TMC Pooled Fund Study SPR-2(207), TPF-5(052)
Quarterly Progress Report
April 1, 2011 – June 30, 2011

Brief descriptions and status of the current and future projects are provided in the following paragraphs. Additional information can be found at the TMC Pooled Fund Study web page at <http://tmcdfs.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/>.

1. List of Completed Projects

1. Configuration Management for Transportation Management Systems
2. Transportation Management Systems Maintenance Concept and Plans
3. Changeable Message Sign Operation and Messaging
4. TMC Operator Requirements and Position Descriptions, Phase 1
5. TMC Operator Requirements and Position Descriptions, Phase 2: Interactive Software
6. Managing Travel for Planned Special Events
7. Impacts of Dynamically Displaying Messages on Changeable Message Signs
8. TMC Operations Manual
9. Coordinated Freeway and Surface Street Operational Plans and Procedures
10. TMC Staffing and Scheduling for Day-to-Day Operations
11. TMC Clearinghouse Development and Initiation
12. TMC Business Planning and Plans Handbook
13. TMC Performance Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Handbook
14. Developing and Using Concept of Operations in Transportation Management Systems
15. Multi-State, Statewide and Regional TMC Concept of Operations and Requirements
16. Recovery and Mitigations for TMCs
17. Driver Use of Real-Time En-Route Travel Time Information
18. TMC Human Factors Design Guidelines: Requirements Analysis
19. Procuring, Managing, and Evaluating the Performance of Contracted TMC Services

2. Current Projects

Methodologies to Measure and Quantify TMC Benefits: The purpose of this project is to gain a better understanding of and to quantify benefits in traffic operations due to the implementation of transportation management centers (TMCs) and the systems, infrastructure, and functions associated with their operations. This project will produce a synthesis report and evaluate the feasibility of developing a software tool for quantifying the benefits of TMCs.

Project Champion: Jim McGee, Nebraska DOR
FHWA Government Task Monitor: Randy VanGorder

Milestones & Products:

- Project kickoff meeting held on October 13, 2010.
- Synthesis Report: Revised draft submitted in May 2011. Final report is expected in July 2011.

Integration of TMCs and Law Enforcement Information: The purpose of this project is to assess the current practices and identify and address institutional, operational and technical issues and challenges that all involving agencies are facing with integrating TMCs and law enforcement. The primary output will be a final report that identifies the value in, and best practices for, integration of law enforcement

operations and data into traffic management centers and traffic management center operations and data into law enforcement to encourage more and greater integration.

Project Champion: John Domina, Nevada DOT
FHWA Government Task Monitor: Kim Vásconez

Milestones & Products:

- Project kickoff meeting held on September 1, 2010.
- Summary of Best Practices: expected in October 2011.
- Final Technical Document: expected in December 2011.

Roles of TMCs in Emergency Operations: This project will assess the roles of TMCs in emergency operations (including winter operations). The project includes identifying the roles of TMCs during emergency situations, discussing how TMCs should prepare for emergency situations and implement actions, conducting a needs assessment to identify needs and gaps, and investigating organizational structures and models that have been used by various agencies.

Project Champion: Cathy McGhee, Virginia Transportation Research Council
FHWA Government Task Monitor: Jimmy Chu

Milestones & Products:

- Project kickoff meeting held on June 14, 2011
- Project Management Plan submitted on June 29, 2011
- Annotated Outline: draft expected in September 2011.
- Final Guidebook: expected in June 2012.

Advance Travel Time Displays Prior to Freeway Entrances: This research will determine the effectiveness of travel time displays as used on the arterial approach to freeways. It will provide recommendations for the design and use of such displays, including information content, format, sign location, and warrants.

Project Champions: Jeff Galas, Illinois DOT
FHWA Government Task Monitor: Chris Monk

Milestones & Products:

- Project kickoff meeting scheduled for July 13, 2011.
- Products: A research report.

Human Factors Guidelines for TMCs: This project will develop a handbook of TMC Human Factors (HF) Guidelines to provide TMC staff, supervisors, managers, and designers with a clear, relevant, and easy-to-use reference of human factors principles for TMC design and operation. This project will build upon the Requirements Analysis for Human Factors Guidelines for TMCs project.

Project Champion: Ed Sirgany, North Carolina DOT
FHWA Government Task Monitor: Chris Monk

Milestones & Products:

- Project kickoff meeting scheduled for July 13, 2011.
- Product: A guidelines document.

TMC Data Capture for Performance and Mobility Measures: This project will develop a guidebook that provides technical guidance and recommended practices on the concepts, methods, techniques, and procedures for collecting and archiving TMC operation data for monitoring, evaluating and reporting TMC performance and transportation system mobility and traffic incident management measures.

Project Champions: Lisa Schettler, Nevada DOT, and Suzette Peplinski, Michigan DOT
FHWA Government Task Monitor: Jimmy Chu

Milestones & Products:

- Anticipated project initiation: August 2011.
- Products: A technical guidebook, a project fact sheet, and a presentation.

3. New Projects for 2011-2012

10-Year Technology Impacts on TMC Operations: This project will identify future development and revolutions in technology in the next 10 years as related to transportation management and will investigate the impacts of such technology on TMC operations.

Project Champion: Cathy McGhee, Virginia Transportation Research Council and Glenn Blackwelder, Utah DOT
FHWA Government Task Monitor: TBD

Milestones & Products:

- Anticipated project initiation: September/October 2011.
- Product: A study report.

Open Source ATMS Software Licensing Development and Support, Phase 1: This phase 1 effort will review current ATMS software and their high level functionalities and modules. Based on the preliminary review, a list of open source software will be identified and further reviewed as to its legal and use limitations, support, and agreements.

Project Champion: Mike Jenkinson, Caltrans
FHWA Government Task Monitor: TBD

Milestones & Products:

- Anticipated project initiation: October 2011.
- Products: A synthesis report and recommendations for phase 2 study.

All Encompassing Software State of the Art Research: All encompassing TMC software will include software functions to support managing freeway and arterial traffic operations as well as incident management, maintenance activities, service patrol operations, resource allocation and utilization, etc. This research will examine and synthesize the state of the art in the research and development of all encompassing software packages for TMCs and provide guidance on the development of next generation TMC software.

Project Champion: Ali Farhangi, Tennessee DOT
FHWA Government Task Monitor: TBD

Milestones & Products:

- Anticipated project initiation: TBD.
- Product: A research report.

Design and Operations Elements of Dynamic Shoulder Use: This project will synthesize the state of practice in design and operations of dynamic shoulder lanes. It will investigate the design standards and operations elements of shoulders that can be used as priced and non-priced travel lanes. A guidance document will be produced to assist practitioners with design and operations of dynamic shoulder lanes.

Project Champion: Charlie Farnham, Texas DOT
FHWA Government Task Monitor: TBD

Milestones & Products:

- Anticipated project initiation: TBD.
- Product: A synthesis report and a guidance document.

Best Practices for Road Condition Reporting Systems: The purpose of this project is to review and synthesize current best practices and state of the practices in planning, design, and operation of road condition reporting systems as well as in integrating such systems with TMCs and other road weather information/management systems, roadway closure systems, and maintenance decision support systems.

Project Champion: Chris Quesnell, Wisconsin DOT
FHWA Government Task Monitor: TBD

Milestones & Products:

- Anticipated project initiation: TBD.
- Products: A synthesis report, a project fact sheet, and a presentation.

TMC White Paper Series: The project will develop a series of white papers that identify issues and challenges that TMCs are facing; suggest areas and topics for further research; and provide recommendations on additional initiatives that are needed to address issues and challenges and to advance the state of TMC practice.

Project Champion: Mike Jenkinson, Caltrans
FHWA Government Task Monitor: TBD

Milestones & Products:

- Anticipated project initiation: TBD.
- Product: A series of white papers.

Effectiveness of Highway Advisory Radio: This project will review, evaluate and synthesize the state of the practice and effectiveness of highway advisory radio (HAR). This will include a compilation of successful stories and lessons learned around the country and assessment of the opportunity of using HAR in conjunction with (or to supplement) other information providing devices for information dissemination.

Project Champion: Ali Farhangi, Tennessee DOT
FHWA Government Task Monitor: TBD

Milestones & Products:

- Anticipated project initiation: TBD.
- Product: A synthesis report.