



# North/West Passage Transportation Pooled Fund Study

TPF-5(093)

## **Q1 2004 Status Report**

January – March 31, 2004

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### **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) projects along the I-90 & I-94 corridor. The states of Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin have been in contact since February 25, 2002 discussing the development of a North/West Passage transportation coalition. North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin contributed funding for the development of a Pooled Fund Study. Other I-90 and I-94 states continue to express interest in the North/West Passage Corridor, but do not have funding secured to participate at this time. The Federal Highway Administration serves as a monitoring body, providing strategic, and technical input. The Steering Committee consisting of members from the eight states meet monthly or as necessary to provide overall program direction.

### **Status/Progress This Quarter and Next Steps**

#### On-line Commitment

Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North Dakota completed the on-line commitment form on FHWA's Pooled Fund Study website to indicate financial participation in the North/West Passage Pooled Fund Study.

*Next Step: Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North Dakota to obligate funds to the North/West Passage TPF Study.*

#### Informational Letter

An information letter was developed and sent to a selected list of FHWA officials. The letter included a brief description of the efforts of the North/West Passage project.

*Next Step: Develop an informational letter to distribute to selected multi-state coalitions to update similar corridors on the North/West Passage efforts.*

#### Contract Support

Mn/DOT executed a contract with URS to provide project management support to the North/West Passage Pooled Fund Study. URS will serve as the monitoring body of executing contracts with vendors for each selected and approved Phase I project.

*Next Step: URS execute contracts with each vendor for Phase I projects.*

#### Phase I Projects

The North/West Passage TPF Study is currently pursuing seven projects selected and approved in December 2003 by the membership as outlined in the Work Plan - Phase I Projects. The purpose of the

Phase I Projects is to implement and evaluate integrated traveler information systems and coordinate maintenance operations across state borders. A status of Phase I projects from January through March 31, 2004 is included below.

- **Project 1.1 – Integrate North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Minnesota Reporting Systems**  
A kick-off meeting has not been scheduled. A meeting will be held after the vendor contracts are executed.
- **Project 1.2 - Deploy Limited CARS Study Application for Wisconsin**

*March 9, 2004 Project Kickoff Meeting*

The group discussed the background of the North/West Passage project and the specifics of Project 1.2. The outcome of the discussion was a decision to hold an internal meeting with Wisconsin staff to determine what Wisconsin would get the most benefit for the \$7,500 of funding identified for this project. After a consensus of what the project's focus should be, the project could move forward.

- **Project 1.3 – Develop Automated Road Condition Reporting System**  
Project 1.3 was tabled in July 2003, due to the separate and ongoing Maintenance Decisions Support System (MDSS) project. This project will be revisited when Phase II projects are discussed.
- **Project 1.4 – Provide Integrated Communications Capabilities for North Dakota DMS**  
Project 1.4 was tabled in July 2003. North Dakota received grant money to upgrade their signs to National Transportation Communications for ITS Protocol (NTCIP) compliance.
- **Project 1.5 – Preliminary Design for DMS Deployment on I-94 Eastbound in North Dakota**  
A kick-off meeting has not been scheduled. A meeting will be held after the vendor contracts are executed.
- **Project 1.6 – Preliminary Design for DMS Deployment at the I-94 Split at Tomah, Wisconsin**

*March 9, 2004 Project Kick-Off Meeting*

- The group discussed the initial focus of this project to provide information to travelers through a DMS sign.
- Due to the development of the Wisconsin State Operation Plan the group agreed that focus should include the timeline of the plan.
- The group agreed the focus of this project should shift to a concept of operations that would include a high level template that would be used corridor-wide.
- **Project 1.7 – Develop a North/West Passage Program Website**  
A kick-off meeting has not been scheduled. A meeting will be held after the vendor contracts are executed.
- **Project 1.8 – Develop a Communication Plan for the Anti-Icing System to be Installed on the I-94 Bridges at Red River**  
A kick-off meeting has not been scheduled. A meeting will be held after the vendor contracts are executed.

- **Project 1.9 – Develop a Lessons Learned Document Comparing Requirements for CARS Deployment in Wisconsin to Meridian’s System Deployment in North Dakota**  
A kick-off meeting has not been scheduled. A meeting will be held after the vendor contracts are executed.

*Next Step: Schedule project 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 1.7, 1.8, and 1.9 Project Team Kick-Off meetings and continue work on Project 1.2 and 1.6.*

#### Upcoming Meetings

- Steering Committee June 25, 2004
- Project 1.1 Work Team June 11, 2004
- Project 1.2 Work Team April 13, May 20, June 4, June 18, June 24, 2004
- Project 1.6 Work Team May 20, 2004
- Project 1.7 Work Team June 4 and June 28, 2004

#### **Financial Summary**

Current member commitments for Phase I Projects total \$100,000.

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

#### **Project Manger**

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