



North/West Passage Transportation Pooled Fund Study

TPF-5(093)

Q2 2004 Status Report

April – June 30, 2004

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

Obligation of Funds

Minnesota and North Dakota completed the obligations of funds to the North/West Passage TPF Study.

Next Step: Wisconsin to obligate funds to the North/West Passage TPF Study.

Informational Letter

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

Next Step: Develop a follow up informational letter in the next six months after the North/West Passage website is launched to update FHWA Officials and other Multi-state Coalitions on the status and progress of the North/West Passage Corridor.

Informational Presentations

During the June 8-10, 2004 Transportation Management Center Pooled Fund Study Annual Meeting, Mark Nelson from MnDOT gave a presentation on the status of the North/West Passage TPF Study.

Contract Support

URS has executed contracts with two of the three vendors for Phase I projects.

- Meridian Environmental Technology Inc. – May 12, 2004
- North Dakota State University – May 24, 2004

Next Step: URS execute contract with Castle Rock Consultants 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 April through June 30, 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.

August 19, 2004 Work Team Meeting

- Meridian has built the ingest system that allows Minnesota data to feed into North and South Dakota. When the system is turned on, travelers in North and South Dakota will have now have Minnesota as an option for which state they would like for traveler information.
- The Event Report Messaging still exists with the new system and eventually could be changed to the Full Event Update.
- Castle Rock in the process of developing a draft Interface Control Document that will address software interfaces between states.

June 11, 2004 Project Kickoff Meeting

Currently in CARS data is updated every minute. However, the CARS consortium is currently revising their system to meet a new national standard, which will result in data being posted only when status has changed. The Work Team agreed that the interface between Minnesota and North Dakota should incorporate the new standard. Castle Rock has developed an Interface Control Document for sharing and accepting information between states reporting systems in other regions in the country. The group agreed that Castle Rock should develop an Interface Control Document for the North/West Passage Corridor based on the work they have performed in other regions in order to address exchange issues between state agencies now and in years to come.

- **Project 1.2 - Deploy Limited CARS Study Application for Wisconsin**

June 24, 2004 Work Team Meeting

- The group identified expectations for the actual trial period of deploying limited CARS in Wisconsin.
 - Timeline – November 13-December 10, 2004 during the hunting season in Wisconsin
 - Location – Minnesota/Wisconsin border to Osseo, Wisconsin on I-94
 - Staff – District 6 State Patrol operators will enter CARS events during the trial period
 - Daily Entries – Minimum of 4 times per day, concurrent with their data entry in 1-800-ROADWIS
 - Training – Mn/DOT staff and Castle Rock will provide training to Wisconsin State Patrol District 6 communications staff in early November.

June 18, 2004 Wisconsin Internal Meeting

Key individuals met with Wisconsin State Patrol to discuss District 6 State Patrol staff assistance for the CARS pilot project. The group concluded to train staff during the beginning of November and to hold the testing shadow mode pilot project from November 13 – December 10, 2004.

June 4, 2004 Wisconsin Internal Meeting

Key individuals met with Wisconsin State Patrol to request approval to move forward with Project 1.2. Wisconsin State Patrol approved Project 1.2 using District 6 State Patrol dispatch staff to demonstrate the capabilities of CARS.

May 20, 2004 Work Team Meeting

A Prospective Wisconsin Reporting System Operational Diagram was developed that outlined one option to accomplish the goals of the project. The diagram explained that the project would operate in a shadow mode, District 6 in Wisconsin would be the trial location, data would be entered by District 6 dispatch at the same time they enter information into the 1-800-ROADWIS system, and training staff would take approximately two hours. The group agreed on moving forward with the information outlined in the diagram, but needed approval from the Wisconsin State Patrol.

April 13, 2004 Wisconsin Internal Meeting

Key individuals held an Internal Stakeholder Meeting in Wisconsin to discuss feasibility of incorporating CARS application. The group discussed what data would be collected for the project, what staff would be responsible for the data, what CARS training would be needed, etc. The group agreed that a tighter scope was needed. The consensus of the group was to form a smaller group that would develop a detailed road map of training, staff commitment, time, etc. for using CARS.

- **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**

May 20, 2004 Project Team Meeting

A draft concept of operations was developed and reviewed. The group agreed that the project focus should still first be on a multi-state concept of operations and then on design. The concept of operations should be a roadmap for other similar projects that identifies the information to be placed on the sign, who would control the sign, who is responsible for maintenance, etc. The next step to move forward with the project is to modify the concept of operations to a project level of operations.

- **Project 1.7 – Develop a North/West Passage Program Website**

June 10, 2004 Project Team Meeting

Work group reviewed draft content and format of what to place on the website and agreed the next step is to further develop the website for review by the Steering Committee.

June 4, 2004 Project Kick-Off Meeting

The group reviewed a draft template for the North/West Passage Website and discussed desired website functionality and content including project schedules, individual project pages, and a members only section.

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

Completed or Tabled Phase I Projects

- **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.

Upcoming Meetings

- Steering Committee August 23, 2004
- Project 1.1 Work Team August 19, 2004
- Project 1.5/1.8 Work Team July 8, July 29, August 17, and September 15 2004
- Project 1.6 Work Team August 4, August 16, and August 23, 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)

Current funds obligated equal \$25,000. Additional obligation of \$25,000 is expected during the next quarter.

- North Dakota \$25,000
- Minnesota \$50,000

Project Manager

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