



**North/West Passage
Transportation Pooled Fund Study
TPF-5(093)
Q4 2006 Status Report
October 1 – December 31, 2006**

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 have been in contact since February 25, 2002 discussing the development of a North/West Passage multi-state transportation program, which was formally established as a TPF Study in 2003. North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin contributed funding for the development of a Phase 1 work plan. Additional contributions have been made by the states of Idaho, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington and Wyoming for the development of a Phase 2 work plan. Wisconsin and Montana 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. 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.

Status/Progress This Quarter and Next Steps

Phase 1 Work Plan Projects

The North/West Passage TPF Study pursued eight projects selected and approved in December 2003 by the membership as outlined in the Work Plan – Phase 1 projects. The purpose of the Phase 1 projects was to implement and evaluate integrated traveler information systems and coordinate maintenance operations across state borders. All of the Phase 1 projects are now complete and individual reports for each are available online at www.nwpassage.info. A full Phase 1 interim report has also been published and will be available online in the coming weeks.

Phase 2 Work Plan Projects

The Steering Committee will develop a full work plan identifying projects to pursue for Phase 2 in early 2006. However, the first project identified for Phase 2 will develop an ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan for the North/West Passage. The Steering Committee elected to wait until the strategic plan is further developed before identifying a more complete list of projects for Phase 2.

- **Project 2.1 – ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan**

The contract for this project was awarded to the SEH Team (SEH, Televent Traffic North America, Inc. [formerly PB Farradyne] and TranSmart Technologies) and work began in mid-October. The plan will focus on center-to-center information sharing opportunities, includes a high-level architecture for the corridor, develop an inventory of communication coverage, and

identify a coordinated deployment and operational concept for traveler information systems across state borders. The plan will also consider current ITS industry interests such as the Clarus initiative and 511.

This quarter, two technical meetings took place (TM 6: 10-19-06 & TM 7: 11-16-06). TM 6 focused on review of the outstanding issues related to Technology Assessment (chapter 5), review of draft revisions from Traveler Information and 511 Integration (chapter 7), review of draft Maintenance and Operations (chapter 8), and discuss the approach to Chapter 9, Deployment and Concept of Operations Plan. Since TM 6, comments from that meeting have been incorporated into the documents (chapters 5 and 7) and they will be posted to the project web site. The Maintenance and Operations System Integration (chapter 8) was discussed in detail at TM 6. Draft Chapter 9 will be presented at TM 7 in November. TM 7 focused on review of revisions to Maintenance and Operations (chapter 8), and review of draft the Deployment and Concept of Operations Plan (chapter 9).

Task	Estimated Start	Estimated Finish
1. Project Management, Administration and Coordination	Mon 10/17/05	Thu 11/30/06
2. Complete Technology Inventory (chapter 1)	Mon 11/14/05	Thu 2/16/06
3. Identify Issues, Problems and Needs (chapter 2)	Mon 1/16/06	Fri 3/10/06
4. Establish Goals, Objectives and Vision (chapter 3)	Mon 1/16/06	Fri 3/10/06
5. Concepts, Potential Solutions and Desired Functions (chapter 4)	Mon 2/13/06	Fri 4/21/06
6. Assess Technology (chapter 5)	Mon 3/20/06 Mon 5/22/06	Mon 5/22/06 Thu 8/24/06 Mon 10/23/06
7. Develop Corridor Architecture (chapter 6)	Mon 5/22/06 Thu 4/20/06	Wed 9/13/06 Thu 6/29/06
8. Identify Traveler Information and 511 System Integration (chapter 7)	Mon 5/22/06 Thu 7/20/06	Tue 8/1/06 Thu 9/21/0 Thu 11/30/06
9. Identify Maintenance and Operations System Integration (chapter 8)	Mon 5/22/06 Thu 9/21/06	Wed 9/13/06 Thu 10/19/06
10. Develop Concept of Operations and Deployment Strategy (chapter 9)	Mon 6/19/06 Thu 10/19/06	Thu 9/21/06 Thu 11/16/06
11. Prepare Strategic Plan	Mon 9/18/06 Thu 11/16/06	Mon 11/20/06 Thu 1/25/07

Next quarter, work will continue with the strategic plan. The Develop Concept of Operations and Deployment Strategy (chapter 9) will be finalized and all the chapters incorporated into one review document. It is anticipated a meeting, perhaps Annual Meeting, will be scheduled early in 2007 to finalize the strategic plan and discuss future projects. Mark Nelson will coordinate this effort.

Financial updates this quarter include the following:

- None noted this quarter.

Mark Nelson provided an update on the Clarus proposal and corridors of the future. The Clarus proposal is due December 1st. Mark suggested meeting with as many members of the steering committee as possible prior to that to discuss matching funds, data collection, etc.. Those that are available will met by teleconference Wednesday, November 22nd at 3:00 p.m. Central Time.

Mark Nelson has received follow-up questions regarding the Corridors of the Future Proposal. An announcement of the shortlist of proposals is expected in mid November. Full proposals are due in the spring. There were as many as 30 proposals submitted. Ultimately five will be selected. There are several states that appear in multiple proposals.

Phase 1 Work Plan Financial Summary

Member commitments for Phase 1 Projects totaled \$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)

Phase 2 Work Plan Financial Summary

All of the eight states in the corridor have committed \$425,000 in total for a Phase 2 Work Plan. Following is a summary of financial contributions by members through March 31, 2006. 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 \$100,000 (SP&R Dollars)
- Montana \$25,000 (Source TBD)
- North Dakota \$50,000 (SP&R Dollars-Partially Obligated)
- South Dakota \$50,000 (SP&R Dollars-Not Yet Obligated)
- Washington \$50,000 (State Dollars)
- Wisconsin-\$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)
- Wyoming \$50,000 (Federal and State Dollars)

Project Manager

Mark Nelson

Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT)

651-634-5293

mark.nelson@dot.state.mn.us

Report by: Jeff Lutz, SEH

Submitted: January 30, 2007