**TRANSPORTATION POOLED FUND PROGRAM**

**QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

Date: **10/23/2012**

Lead Agency (FHWA or State DOT): **FHWA**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

*Project Managers and/or research project investigators should complete a quarterly progress report for each calendar quarter during which the projects are active. Please provide a project schedule status of the research activities tied to each task that is defined in the proposal; a percentage completion of each task; a concise discussion (2 or 3 sentences) of the current status, including accomplishments and problems encountered, if any. List all tasks, even if no work was done during this period.*

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| Transportation Pooled Fund Program Project #  ***5(243)*** | | Transportation Pooled Fund Program - Report Period:  \_ Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31)  \_ Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30)  ***x Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30)***  \_ Quarter 4 (October 1 – December 31) | |
| Project Title:  **Motorcycle Crash Causation Study** | | | |
| Name of Project Manager(s):  **Craig Thor** | Phone Number:  **202-493-3338** | | E-Mail  **CraigThor@dot.gov** |
| Lead Agency Project ID: | Other Project ID (i.e., contract #):  **DTFH61-06-H-00034** | | Project Start Date:  **April 15, 2011** |
| Original Project End Date:  **March 31, 2015** | Current Project End Date:  **March 31, 2015** | | Number of Extensions:  **0** |

Project schedule status:

* On schedule □ On revised schedule □ Ahead of schedule □ Behind schedule

Overall Project Statistics:

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| **Total Project Budget** | **Total Cost to Date for Project** | **Percentage of Work**  **Completed to Date** |
| **$3,571,600** | **$576,318.17** | **25%** |

***Quarterly*** Project Statistics:

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| **Total Project Expenses**  **and Percentage This Quarter** | **Total Amount of Funds**  **Expended This Quarter** | **Total Percentage of**  **Time Used to Date** |
| **$93,228.52 (2.6% of budget)** | **$93,228.52** | **20%** |

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| **Project Description**:  Due to an alarming increase in motorcycle fatalities in the United States, Congress approved Federal funding for a motorcycle crash causation study as part of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The legislation specified that the Department of Transportation provide a grant to the Oklahoma Transportation Center to perform the research. The Motorcycle Crash Causation Study (MCCS) is meant to provide insight into the causative factors that lead to motorcycle crashes in the United States. A comprehensive database of approximately 1,600 data elements will be created from a collection of real-world motorcycle crash investigations and interviews of riders with similar risk factors. A research effort of this scale has not been conducted in the United States in 30 years. During this time, both the rider demographics and the motorcycles themselves have changed considerably and this new data source will make it possible to identify contemporary trends associated with motorcycle crashes. Study results may lead to the development of new roadway countermeasures, educational programs, and sound policy decisions that are rooted in a data-driven assessment of motorcycle safety. |

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| **Progress this Quarter (includes meetings, work plan status, contract status, significant progress, etc.):**  The quarter began implementation of the new management plan for the project and a new team structure. The team membership is the same as originally proposed, with all of the originally-proposed and approved organizations again cooperating to execute the project. The team is operating and has continued to produce results, moving the number of cases initiated from 100 to 139 and the number of closed cases from 54 on June 20, 2012 to 69 on September 20, 2012; 33 cases are open with another 7 pending on September 20, 2012 compared to 15 open and 4 pending on June 20, 2012. The doubling of open and pending cases reflects the expected seasonal influx and workload of cases during the summer months; this backlog is expected to be reduced as the summer comes to a close.  The project PI, Dr. John Nazemetz, traveled to Anaheim, California to visit with the crash investigation team and meet with the QC review team on September 23-27. He was joined by the FHWA AOTR, Dr. Thor, on the 25th to meet with the Irvine PD Chief and the Traffic Sergeant followed by another meeting with the Long Beach PD. The purpose of these meetings was to try and recruit the jurisdictions to participate in the study. Both departments showed strong interest in participating. Drs. Thor and Nazemetz also observed the field operations of the crash investigation team while in California.  Throughout the quarter, individual and conference calls were held between the project team members as needed. Additionally, regular conference calls are now held between OSU, FHWA, and DSI every month. |
| **Anticipated work next quarter**:   * Continued motorcycle crash investigations and gathering of crash causation factor data. * Development and use of a crash reconstruction methods/forms to improve coding consistency of primary and contribution factors and harmonize understanding between the crash investigation staff and the QC team. * Pursuit of actions to assure and enlarge the support of law enforcement agencies in the study. Contact with agencies to inform them of the progress of the study/Issue semi-annual update/report * Finalization of plans for the statistical analysis to be performed on the first 100 completed crash investigations. This analysis (anticipated to be initiated in the first quarter of 2013) will serve to prove out the analysis process and enable preliminary data review. * Identification and initial training of OSU students to support the study; their anticipated primary activity will be in support of data analysis. * Determination of the timing and communication logistics of the next Project Working Group meeting and development the preliminary meeting agenda. Provide notice to the Working Group members in early October. |

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| **Significant Results:**  **Data Collection**  As of September 20, 139 cases have been initiated. Of these, 37 cases were dropped. 69 cases have been closed with all field work completed, and two controls obtained. In addition, there are currently 33 cases in which data are still being collected. |
| **Circumstance affecting project or budget. (Please describe any challenges encountered or anticipated that**  **might affect the completion of the project within the time, scope and fiscal constraints set forth in the**  **agreement, along with recommended solutions to those problems).**  There are no circumstances currently that should affect the project timeline or budget. |

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| **Potential Implementation:**  No potential implementation this quarter |