

TRANSPORTATION POOLED FUND PROGRAM QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Lead Agency (FHWA or State DOT): Connecticut Department of Transportation

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 # TPF-5(236) | Transportation Pooled Fund Program - Rep Period: <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31) <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30) Quarter 4 (October 1 – December 31) | |
| Project Title: Demonstration and Purchase of PG Binder Testing Equipment | | |
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| Project Investigator: James Mahoney Phone: 860-486-9299 E-mail: james.mahoney@uconn.edu | | |
| Lead Agency Project ID: TPF-5(236) | Other Project ID (i.e., contract #): | Project Start Date: February 1, 2011 |
| Original Project End Date: June 30, 2012 | Current Project End Date: June 30, 2013 | Number of Extensions: 1 |

Project schedule status:

On schedule
 On revised schedule
 Ahead of schedule
 Behind schedule

Overall Project Statistics:

| Total Project Budget | Total Cost to Date for Project | Total Percentage of Work Completed |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Contract Amount: \$1,081,070.07 Commitments Received: \$1,081,070.07 Phase 1 – Under Contract to UConn: \$42,263 Phase 2 – Under Contract to UConn: \$1,038,807.07 | \$1,060,278 | 95% |

Quarterly Project Statistics:

| Total Project Expenses This Quarter | Total Amount of Funds Expended This Quarter | Percentage of Work Completed This Quarter |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| \$145,550 | 145,550 | 5% |

Project Description:

Background:

To help expedite the implementation of the Superpave methods in the mid-1990s, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) conducted a Pooled Fund project that allowed state transportation agencies to purchase shares in the Pooled Fund. Each share provided the state transportation agency with one full set of Superpave test equipment - both for the asphalt binder and the hot mix asphalt (HMA). The pooling of funds gave the states greater purchasing power that resulted lower costs as compared to states purchasing the equipment individually.

The majority of the equipment that was purchased under the Pooled Fund was for testing of asphalt binder in accordance with the Performance Grading (PG) system. The binder testing equipment is highly sophisticated and contains sensitive electronics for making the necessary measurements. As most of this equipment has been in service for approximately 15 years, it is nearing the end of its service life and manufacturers are no longer carrying repair parts.

With the advent of new test methods such as the Multiple Stress Creep Recovery Test, older direct-shear (DSR) equipment is either not able to run these tests or the results are suspect because of the limitations of the older equipment. States must replace this equipment in order to adopt these new and improved test methods.

Objectives:

To conduct a Pooled Fund project similar to the one conducted earlier by FHWA, here in the northeastern part of the country. In Phase 1, researchers will arrange for participating state DOTs a demonstration of lab equipment options for PG binder testing. Then in a second phase, CAP Lab will facilitate a pooled-fund purchase of asphalt-binder laboratory test equipment for interested states DOTs.

Progress this Quarter (includes meetings, work plan status, contract status, significant progress, etc.):

Phase 1:

1. Requested and obtained approval for a no-cost time extension to June 30, 2013, for Phase 1 of this project. Necessary contract documentation was completed to accomplish this.
2. Funding from all seven states has been received by ConnDOT and those funds have been made available to UConn to purchase the equipment.
3. For six of the seven states, the equipment has already been received or purchase orders have been placed. Due to changes within the University computer systems at the end of the fiscal year, there is a temporary freeze on issuing new purchase orders. It is anticipated that new purchase orders will begin to be issued in the second half of July, at which time the purchase order for equipment for RI will be placed.
4. A request will be made to identify any states that are planning to supplement their funding for additional purchases under this project.

Phase 2:

1. Requested and obtained approval for a project extension to June 30, 2013, for Phase 2 of this project. Necessary contract documentation was completed to accomplish this.
2. Five of the seven states have received the equipment they had requested (CT, ME, NH, NY and VT). Purchase orders for the equipment requested by MA have been submitted and they should begin to receive their equipment early in the next quarter.

Anticipated work next quarter:

Phase 1:

1. Process funding from any states supplementing their original funding to purchase any additional equipment.
2. Complete transfer of ownership of any remaining equipment to the appropriate states.

Phase 2:

1. Continue purchasing and processing payments upon receipt of the equipment based upon pricing that has been received.

Significant Results:

Most of the equipment is now installed and functioning in the participating state transportation agencies' labs.

Circumstance affecting project or budget (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).

None.