**TPF-5(145)** **Western Maintenance Partnership**

**Final Report – May 2014**

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**Background**

In the 1980's the Rocky Mountain Maintenance Tour established a highly effective forum for the exchange of information, techniques, policies and strategies for the maintenance of the Highway System. Since that time the role of Maintenance as a critical element in the overall management of the State Highway infrastructure has increased. Most Maintenance managers have been completely replaced since the ending of the Rocky Mountain Maintenance Tour. The primary focus has also shifted from new construction and major rehabilitation to more attention to infrastructure preservation and asset management via cost effective maintenance. Reactive maintenance alone is not adequate to overcome the challenges of rapid deterioration of roads, considering aging of the infrastructure and growing economic constraints.

Transportation Pooled Fund Study No. TPF-5(145), the Western Maintenance Partnership (WMP), has run from 2006 to 2014 and will soon be closed and reopened as a new pooled fund study. It has been a worthwhile project for the WASHTO Committee on Maintenance in which the participating agencies pooled their efforts to provide a focused look at Maintenance, and partnered with WASHTO states to share experiences, innovations, expertise and solutions to the complex management of highway assets. Maintenance issues addressed include policies, practices, specifications, field investigations, applied research, materials, and training. Key elements of the annual meetings have included roundtables and sharing of field experience via hands-on demonstration of features.

**Objectives**

The purpose of the current WMP is to provide a partnering forum for promoting effective maintenance strategies through the following objectives:

* Provide funds for a multi-day annual workshop for discussion and exchange of information and knowledge about each state's maintenance program.
* Provide a means to define, support and share technology of mutual interest.
* Provide funds for formal training presentations during the annual workshop.
* Provide funds for management support of WMP.
* Provide funds for special studies, investigations, research and training.

**Participants**

Several agencies contributed funding to the pooled fund. These included the following:

* Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
* Arizona Department of Transportation
* California Department of Transportation
* Colorado Department of Transportation
* Federal Highway Administration
* Idaho Transportation Department
* Montana Department of Transportation
* Nevada Department of Transportation
* New Mexico Department of Transportation
* Oklahoma Department of Transportation
* Texas Department of Transportation
* Utah Department of Transportation (Lead Agency)
* Washington State Department of Transportation
* Wyoming Department of Transportation

Several agencies also benefitted from the pooled fund activities and resources, whether in attending associated annual meetings and scan tours or in receiving travel or hosting assistance from the pooled fund for these events. These meetings included the WASHTO Committee on Maintenance. Agencies that received travel or hosting funds from the pooled fund included the following:

* Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
* Arizona Department of Transportation
* California Department of Transportation
* Colorado Department of Transportation
* Idaho Transportation Department
* Montana Department of Transportation
* Nevada Department of Transportation
* North Dakota Department of Transportation
* Oklahoma Department of Transportation
* Oregon Department of Transportation
* Texas Department of Transportation
* Utah Department of Transportation
* Washington State Department of Transportation
* Wyoming Department of Transportation

**Accomplishments**

Many ideas have been shared and implemented by a number of states as a result of the annual meetings. This program has helped build a working relationship in the WASHTO states that promotes sharing of ideas and providing help with changing problems. Proceedings of the annual meetings and scan tours were prepared and made available to the participants. Following is a list of the annual WASHTO Committee on Maintenance meetings and scan tours which the pooled fund helped to support:

* 2006: Meeting held in Utah. Scan tour held in Colorado.
* 2007: Meeting held in Nevada. Scan tour held in Alaska.
* 2008: Meeting held in Oregon. Scan tour held in Wyoming.
* 2009: Meeting held in Arizona.
* 2010: Meeting held in Wyoming.
* 2011: Meeting held in Nebraska. Scan tour held in Oregon.
* 2012: Meeting held in California.
* 2013: Meeting held in Idaho.
* 2014: Meeting held in Colorado.

**The Plan Going Forward**

In working recently with FHWA and this pooled fund, it has been determined that this project will need to be closed in the near future. A new pooled fund will be set up for this project as soon as possible, and UDOT will again take the lead in administering this process. It is anticipated that the new pooled fund will operate in a similar manner in supporting the WASHTO Committee on Maintenance.

The current pooled fund has used more than 50% of the received funds to date. FHWA will be returning unexpended funds from the current pooled fund to the participating agencies. The time has come for all member states to review their potential committed amount to be placed in the new pooled fund. In the near future an email will be sent out to all member states defining the new project process and their involvement. If you have any questions please contact Kevin Griffin at 801-965-4120 or kgriffin@utah.gov.