

# **TMC Pooled Fund Study Quarterly Progress Report**

## **January 1, 2010 – March 31, 2010**

### **Project Status**

Brief descriptions and status of the current and future projects are provided in the following paragraphs. Additional information can be found at the TMC Pooled Fund Study web page at <http://tmcdfs.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/>.

### **1. List of Completed Projects**

1. Configuration Management for Transportation Management Systems
2. Transportation Management Systems Maintenance Concept and Plans
3. Changeable Message Sign Operation and Messaging
4. TMC Operator Requirements and Position Descriptions, Phase 1
5. TMC Operator Requirements and Position Descriptions, Phase 2: Interactive Software
6. Managing Travel for Planned Special Events
7. Impacts of Dynamically Displaying Messages on Changeable Message Signs
8. TMC Operations Manual
9. Coordinated Freeway and Surface Street Operational Plans and Procedures
10. TMC Staffing and Scheduling for Day-to-Day Operations
11. TMC Clearinghouse Development and Initiation
12. TMC Business Planning and Plans Handbook
13. TMC Performance Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Handbook
14. Developing and Using Concept of Operations in Transportation Management Systems
15. Multi-State, Statewide and Regional TMC Concept of Operations and Requirements
16. Recovery and Mitigations for TMCs
17. Driver Use of Real-Time En-Route Travel Time Information
18. TMC Human Factors Design Guidelines: Requirements Analysis

### **2. On-Going Projects**

**Procuring, Managing, and Evaluating the Performance of Contracted TMC Services:** The major focus of this project is a scan of current TMC owners to determine outsourcing activities and the methodologies being utilized. A technical document will be developed to provide guidance and recommended practice to TMC owners and managers to determine their outsourcing needs, activities and the methodologies being utilized to operate and maintain the transportation management systems.

Project Champion: John Bassett, New York State DOT  
FHWA Work Order Manager: Raj Ghaman

#### *Milestones & Products:*

- Technical document: Final document submitted in January.
- Outreach material (fact sheet, tri-fold brochure, and presentation): Final documents submitted in January.
- Final documents will be posted on the web site soon.

### **3. Future Projects**

**Methodologies to Measure and Quantify TMC Benefits:** The purpose of this project is to gain a better understanding of and to quantify benefits in traffic operations due to the implementation of transportation management centers (TMCs) and the systems, infrastructure, and functions associated with their operations. This project will be performed through two phases: (1) Phase 1 – Produce a synthesis report and evaluate the feasibility of developing a software tool for quantifying the benefits of TMCs and (2) Phase 2 – Develop a software tool.

Project Champion: Jim McGee, Nebraska DOR  
FHWA Work Order Manager: Randy VanGorder

*Milestones & Products:*

- Contract has been awarded.
- Anticipated project kickoff: Spring/Summer 2010.
- Phase 1 Products: A Synthesis Report and Phase 2 Work Plan.

**Integration of TMCs and Law Enforcement:** The purpose of this project is to develop a technical document that assesses the current practices and identifies and addresses institutional, operational and technical issues and challenges that all involving agencies are facing with integrating TMCs and law enforcement. A white paper will also be prepared that identifies a series of next steps to develop a comprehensive guide, tools, outreach and technology transfer strategies, as well as to identify needs for further research.

Project Champion: John Domina, Nevada DOT  
FHWA Work Order Manager: TBD

*Milestones & Products:*

- Anticipated project initiation: Summer 2010.
- Product: A technical guidance document and a white paper.

**Travel Time Displays at Freeway Entrance Approaches:** This research will determine the effectiveness of travel time displays as used on the arterial approach to freeways. It will provide recommendations for the design and use of such displays, including information content, format, sign location, and warrants.

Project Champions: Jeff Galas, Illinois DOT  
FHWA Work Order Manager: TBD

*Milestones & Products:*

- Anticipated project initiation: Summer 2010.
- Products: A research report.

**Human Factors Guidelines for TMCs:** This project will develop a handbook of TMC Human Factors (HF) Guidelines to provide TMC staff, supervisors, managers, and designers with a clear, relevant, and easy-to-use reference of human factors principles for TMC design and operation. This project will build upon the Requirements Analysis for Human Factors Guidelines for TMCs project.

Project Champion: Ed Sirgany, North Carolina DOT  
FHWA Work Order Manager: TBD

*Milestones & Products:*

- Anticipated project initiation: Spring 2010.

- Product: A guidelines document.

**TMC Clearinghouse Support Services, Phase 2:** The purpose of this project is to provide continued and improved support services for the TMC Clearinghouse that will be created in the initial phase of the project. This phase 2 project will evaluate the feedback and recommend enhancement from the user and improve the functions of the clearinghouse as appropriate. In addition, this project will involve the support to facilitate outreach and awareness of TMC Clearinghouse to a broader audience base.

Project Champions: TMC PFS Co-Chairs  
FHWA Work Order Manager: Randy VanGorder

*Milestones & Products:*

- Anticipated project initiation: April 2010.
- Products: enhanced TMC Clearinghouse, evaluation report on user feedback, outreach and marketing material (fact sheet, brochure, and presentation).

**Best Practices for Road Condition Reporting Systems:** The purpose of this project is to review and synthesize current best practices and state of the practices in planning, design, and operation of road condition reporting systems as well as in integrating such systems with other road weather information/management systems.

Project Champion: Jim McGee, Nebraska DOR  
FHWA Work Order Manager: TBD

*Milestones & Products:*

- Anticipated project initiation: Summer 2010.
- Products: A synthesis report, a project fact sheet, and a presentation.

**Synthesis of Current Travel Time Information Practice:** The purpose of this project is to review and synthesize current practice, state of the practice, success stories, and lessons learned in providing travel time information around the country as well as to provide recommended practices on the concepts, methods, techniques, and procedures for transportation agencies to collect, calculate, and predict travel time information.

Project Champion: Jeff Galas, Illinois DOT  
FHWA Work Order Manager: TBD

*Milestones & Products:*

- Anticipated project initiation: Summer 2010.
- Products: A synthesis report and outreach material (fact sheet and presentation).

**Roles of TMCs in Emergency Operations:** This project will assess the roles of TMCs in emergency operations (including winter operations). The project includes identifying the roles of TMCs during emergency situations, discussing how TMCs should prepare for emergency situations and implement actions, conducting a needs assessment to identify needs and gaps, and investigating organizational structures and models that have been used by various agencies.

Project Champion: Cathy McGhee, Virginia Transportation Research Council  
FHWA Work Order Manager: TBD

*Milestones & Products:*

- Anticipated project initiation: TBD.
- Product: A study report.

**10-Year Technology Impacts on TMC Operations:** This project will identify future development and revolutions in technology in the next 10 years as related to transportation management and will investigate the impacts of such technology on TMC operations.

Project Champion: Cathy McGhee, Virginia Transportation Research Council  
FHWA Work Order Manager: TBD

*Milestones & Products:*

- Anticipated project initiation: TBD.
- Product: A study report.

**Effectiveness of Highway Advisory Radio:** This project will review, evaluate and synthesize the state of the practice and effectiveness of highway advisory radio (HAR). This will include a compilation of successful stories and lessons learned around the country and assessment of the opportunity of using HAR in conjunction with (or to supplement) other information providing devices for information dissemination.

Project Champion: Ali Farhangi, Tennessee DOT  
FHWA Work Order Manager: TBD

*Milestones & Products:*

- Anticipated project initiation: TBD.
- Product: A synthesis report.

**TMC Data Capture for Performance and Mobility Measures:** This project will synthesize best practices and lessons learned related to collecting and archiving TMC operation data for monitoring, evaluating and reporting performance and mobility measures at system levels as well as for specific scenarios or locations.

Project Champion: John Bassett, New York State DOT  
FHWA Work Order Manager: TBD

*Milestones & Products:*

- Anticipated project initiation: TBD.
- Products: A synthesis report, a project fact sheet, and a presentation.