

**TRANSPORTATION POOLED FUND PROGRAM
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

Lead Agency (FHWA or State DOT): Minnesota DOT

Transportation Pooled Fund Program Project #: TPF-5(190)		Transportation Pooled Fund Program - Report Period: Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31) Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30) Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30) X Quarter 4 (October 1 – December 31)	
Project Title: North/West Passage Transportation Pooled Fund Study – Phase 3			
Name of Project Manager(s): Cory Johnson	Phone Number: 651.234.7062	E-Mail cory.johnson@state.mn.us	
Lead Agency Project ID:	Other Project ID (i.e., contract #): MnDOT Contract No. 91150, 94522, WO#3, 89264 WO#6, 98623, 00976, 01576, 04288, 00977, 06484	Project Start Date: December 2008	
Original Project End Date: August 2015	Current Project End Date: August 2015	Number of Extensions: None	

Project schedule status:

X On schedule On revised schedule Ahead of schedule Behind schedule

Overall Project Statistics:

Total Project Budget	Total Cost to Date for Project	Percentage of Work Completed to Date
\$844,980.08	\$742,490.56	88%

Quarterly Project Statistics:

Total Project Expenses and Percentage This Quarter	Total Amount of Funds Expended This Quarter	Total Percentage of Time Used to Date
\$41,021.49	\$41,021.49	5%

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 began meeting in February 2002 to discuss the development of a North/West Passage multi-state transportation program. The states formally established as a TPF Study through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in 2003. FHWA 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.

North/West Passage members contribute \$25,000 or more annually to the pooled fund and are reimbursed for program travel. A work plan is developed and approved annually by the Steering Committee. Work Plan 1 and Work Plan 2 were funded through TFP-5(093). That project number was closed out and Work Plan 3 - Work Plan 9 are funded through the new FHWA TPF-5(190) number. To view work plans visit the program website at: <http://www.nwpassage.info/about/workplan.php>

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

Work Plan Projects

- **Project 8.3: Freight Task Force**

Project Objective: Establish a freight task force from Summer 2014 through Spring 2015 designed to assess the value of an ongoing, dedicated group focused on North/West Passage freight related activities and projects.

- MnDOT Freight staff are actively involved and participate in the Freight Task Force.
- Monthly webinars were held and discussions included prioritizing work plan project ideas. Nine project were identified, prioritized and included in a draft work plan. The purpose of the work plan is to guide activities and actions of the North/West Passage Freight Task over the next 1 to 5 years. The draft work plan was distributed to the Freight Task Force members for review.
- A draft technical memorandum assessing the feasibility of a Corridor-Wide commercial vehicle web portal and an accompanying concept of operations was developed and distributed to members for review. The Corridor-Wide commercial vehicle web portal feasibility study and concept of operations will outline the steps to expand Wyoming's web portal into other North/West Passage states.

- **Project 8.5: Member Outreach Support**

Project Objective: Develop materials for and provide outreach support to the steering committee members as they share information about North/West Passage with other staff in their agencies.

- Cory Johnson from MnDOT is the project lead for Project 8.5. A citizen reporting peer exchange was held on October 27, 2014. Members discussed states' interest in citizen reporting and reviewed approaches and experiences with citizen reporting in Wyoming and Idaho. The purpose of the webinar was to assist North/West Passage state's that are considering or moving forward with citizen reporting efforts. An article was produced highlighting the North/West Passage Corridor and citizen reporting for MnDOT Research Services for distribution. MnDOT staff participated in the webinar and Kelly Braunig from MnDOT presented MnDOT's approach with citizen reporting during the webinar.

- Project 9.1: Operations Task Force

Project Objective: To support periodic task force meetings to complete the work plan tasks identified by the task force members.

- MnDOT Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC) staff are actively involved and participate in the Operations Task Force.
- A seasonal webinar was held on October 15. Operations staff in each North/West Passage state reviewed operational guidelines for coordinating major events, reviewed tools available to support major event coordination and highlighted major events from the previous year.
- Many of the North/West Passage States are predominantly rural. Task force exchanged information about each states' approach to 24/7 staffing and a summary of the information was circulated to assist those states that currently do not have 24/7 staffing.
- Monthly webinars were also held and discussions included hosting a Regional Operations Forum. The Task Force researched the cost and logistics for holding a Regional Operations Forum and presented the proposal to the Steering Committee in December. The forum will provide practitioners along the North/West Passage corridor with new and innovative approaches for managing and operating the highway system, drawing cutting edge work being carried out under the SHRP 2 program and other national programs.

- Project 9.2: Peer Exchange

Project Objective: Identify peer exchange topics of interest to the members, research the selected topics and conduct a meeting (webinar or in person) to exchange information.

- A schedule was shared with the Steering Committee to outline the dates of the peer exchanges in 2015. The North/West Passage states have continuously identified peer exchange opportunities as an important benefit as a member to the corridor program. Learning from others and not duplicating efforts is an important focus for the members.
- The first peer exchange is scheduled for January 28, 2015 and the topic is variable speed limits. Presenters were confirmed and meeting invitations were distributed.

- Project 9.3: Virtual Scanning Tour of "On the road Technologies"

Project Objective: Allow North/West Passage members to learn more about evolving technologies and test an enhanced use of webinars.

- There are a number of field deployment technologies that North/West Passage members have interest in and/or have deployed and it is not feasible to visit each deployment site. Steering Committee members discussed potential topics for project webinars.

- Project 9.5: Research Need for Corridor Performance Measures

Project Objective: Research current requirements and trends with corridor performance measures and determine if measures should be established for North/West Passage.

- Researched corridor performance management and potential measures for North/West Passage to consider and began identifying potential performance measures.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee provides overall program direction. The committee held three teleconference meetings during the 4th Quarter (October 14, November 12 and December 9).

- Provided project updates on the above work plan projects.

- Continued to provide input to the Multi-state Corridor Operations Management (MCOM) Operations and Traveler Information Integration Sharing (OTIIS) North/West Passage Project that is administered by Montana DOT.

Anticipated work next quarter:

- Steering Committee Meetings in January, February and March.
- Plan for the May 2015 Annual Steering Committee Meeting Minnesota.
- Plan for the North/West Passage Regional Operations Forum to be held in conjunction with the Annual Steering Committee in May 2015.
- Continue to provide input to the Multi-state Corridor Operations Management (MCOM) Operations and Traveler Information Integration Sharing (OTIIS) North/West Passage Project that is administered by Montana DOT.
- Continue to complete project tasks for the active work plan projects.

Significant Results:

No projects completed during the 4th Quarter.

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).

N/A

Potential Implementation:

N/A