

TRANSPORTATION POOLED FUND PROGRAM QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Lead Agency (FHWA or State DOT): Iowa 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 of the current status, including accomplishments and problems encountered, if any. List all tasks, even if no work was done during this period.

Transportation Pooled Fund Program Project # TPF-5 (435)		Transportation Pooled Fund Program - Report Period: X Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31, 2019) Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30, 2019) Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30, 2019) Quarter 4 (October 1 – December 31, 2019)	
Project Title: Aurora Program			
Project Manager: Tina Greenfield		Phone: 515-233-7746	E-mail: tina.greenfield@dot.iowa.gov
Project Investigator: Zach Hans		Phone: 515-294-8103	E-mail: zhans@iastate.edu
Lead Agency Project ID:	Other Project ID (i.e., contract #): Addendum 731	Project Start Date: January 1, 2020	
Original Project End Date: December 31, 2020	Current Project End Date:	Number of Extensions:	

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	Total Percentage of Work Completed
\$	\$	

Quarterly Project Statistics:

Total Project Expenses This Quarter	Total Amount of Funds Expended This Quarter	Percentage of Work Completed This Quarter
\$	N/A	

Project Description:

The Aurora Program is a consortium of public agencies focused on collaborative research, evaluation, and deployment of technologies for detailed road weather monitoring and forecasting. Members seek to implement advanced road weather information systems (RWIS) that fully integrate state-of-the-art roadway and weather forecasting technologies with coordinated, multi-agency weather monitoring infrastructures; ultimately lessening adverse impacts of inclement weather.

Progress this Quarter (includes meetings, work plan status, contract status, significant progress, etc.). These efforts are identified below.

Program Administrative Activities:

- Prepared presentation for two committee meetings at TRB 2020.
- Coordinated with Washington DOT regarding new, interim representative.
- Coordinated with new Arizona DOT representative.
- Continued tracking state commitments.
- Distributed list of potential projects and existing project teams to Aurora Board.
- Distributed request of research ideas (including blank form) to Aurora Board for discussion at Spring 2020 meeting.
- Had a conference call with Iowa DOT, NCAR and WTI regarding Aurora research.
- Corresponded with potential researcher at Ohio Northern University regarding research idea submission.
- Addressed question regarding research idea submittals.
- Addressed question regarding contracts with foreign governments.
- Updated Alaska DOT representative information and reached out regarding Aurora and the Spring 2020 meeting.
- Shared Board member's question (following) with Aurora Board.
ADOT is looking at implementing and installing a VMS along our I-40 corridor. Have other states done this for snow. If so, what criteria have they utilized in order to be successful. So far these systems will tie into the RWIS along with our grip technology. Have any states accomplished this yet? ADOT has done a dust corridor but is more of visualization versus grip.
- Facilitated discussions via auroraboard@iastate.edu.
- Addressed all board correspondence, administrative items resulting from the Fall 2019 meeting.
- Provided program management in terms of projects and program budgets.
- Continued planning the Spring 2020 meeting, including collaborating with the executive board to move the meeting from on-site to virtual.
- Participated in planning calls for the 2020 International Road Weather and Winter Maintenance Conference.
- Shared information regarding the Aurora Pooled Fund regarding budget, accomplishments, projects, etc. This information was used by agencies to justify continued participation.
- Managed Aurora Board email list.
- Updated website content and continued working on protected content access.

Facilitate Meetings and Conference Calls:

- Continued planning for Spring 2020 meeting, including venue selection, retreat selection, coordination with Oregon DOT, coordination with NWS, coordination with potential presenters, coordination with Portland State researchers, coordination with Paul Pisano (TRB), setting agenda, communicating with Aurora Board, reserving vehicles.
- Hosted Board member 60-Minute monthly conference calls on:
 - February 13
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- March 12
- Coordinated with Iowa DOT, MnDOT, TRB, Clear Roads and SICOP regarding “2020 International Road Weather and Winter Maintenance Conference & Peer Exchange”, particularly with respect to funding Board member attendance and guests.
- Prepared handouts for the Spring 2020 meeting, including a research project update and compilation of submitted research ideas.
- Collaborated with the executive board to move the Spring 2020 meeting from on-site to virtual due to COVID-19.
- Worked with ISU and venues to get out of contracts. This was successful.
- Changed Spring 2020 meeting agenda to work better via a web meeting, i.e. three days of two hour meetings.
- Worked with Spring 2020 meeting presenters regarding time allotments.

Processing Travel Requests, Travel Reimbursements, and Meeting Expenses:

- Coordinated with member states regarding attendance at Spring 2020 meeting.
- Booked Aurora Board member flights for Spring 2020 meeting.
- Cancelled Spring 2020 flights due to move from an on-site to virtual meeting.

Project-Specific Activities:

- Tracked project status and prepared a summary for recently completed, active, and all prospective new projects.
- Roadway Ice/snow Detection Using a Novel Infrared Thermography Technology
 - Initiated contracting.
- Continued work associated with assuming control and management of the RWIS training tool (<http://aurorabase.iteris.com/login/?destination=/>), including monthly billing.

Anticipated work next quarter:

Program Administrative Activities:

- Hold Spring 2020 meeting.
- Continue Aurora website updates.
- Follow up with states, about possible membership.
- Manage budget.
- Track new solicitation contributions.
- Participate in planning calls for 2020 International Road weather and Winter Maintenance Conference & Peer Exchange.
- Foster any Board approved research ideas during the Spring 2020 meeting.

Facilitate Meetings and Conference Calls:

- Continue monthly Board meeting calls to generate research ideas and discuss important issues.
- Facilitate project correspondence and status reports.
- Hold Spring 2020 meeting.
- Distribute Spring 2020 minutes.
- Finalize mechanism to have Board members and guest attend 2020 International Road weather and Winter Maintenance Conference & Peer Exchange.
- Coordinate with TRB regarding 2020 International Road weather and Winter Maintenance Conference & Peer Exchange costs.

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Processing Travel Requests, Travel Reimbursements, and Meeting Expenses:

- Begin scheduling Board member travel to for 2020 International Road weather and Winter Maintenance Conference & Peer Exchange, if and as appropriate.

Project-Specific Activities:

- Pending new projects being under contract, schedule kickoff meeting, including “Roadway Ice/snow Detection Using a Novel Infrared Thermography Technology”.
- Foster any research ideas approved during the Spring 2020 meeting. Move towards RFP or funding with research teams.
- Project updates for each project and research team.
- Track project status with champions and team members.
- Track project timelines and distribute project materials.

Significant Results:

- Planned Spring 2020 meeting, including moving it from on-site to virtual.
- Held Fall 2019 meeting in Tampa, Florida
- Continued monthly Board meeting calls.
- Determined possible mechanism to have members attend for 2020 International Road weather and Winter Maintenance Conference & Peer Exchange
- Initiated “Roadway Ice/snow Detection Using a Novel Infrared Thermography Technology” contracting.
- Communicated with new Aurora representatives.

Circumstance affecting project or budget: