

This is your master copy of the  
ODOT Quarterly Report Form.

Please make copies of this form for each quarter, as needed. Electronic version can be obtained from our website ([www.dot.state.oh.us/divplan/research](http://www.dot.state.oh.us/divplan/research)).

Quarters end on the following dates:

March 31,  
June 30,  
September 30,  
December 31.

Within **one month** of the above dates, your quarterly report(s) must be submitted **directly** to the Office of Research and Development. If you submit paper copies, the following must be sent: **1** original report with a cover letter, and **4** copies.

In lieu of printed copies, quarterly reports may be submitted electronically in “doc,” “wpd,” or “pdf” formats. The subject line should read “Quarterly report: State Job #\_\_\_\_.” Electronic submission must be made to **Research@dot.state.oh.us**.

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
QUARTERLY RESEARCH REPORT**



For Quarter Ending

Date Submitted: March 31, 2006

Project Title: Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Study, Phase II

Research Agency: University of Wisconsin-Madison

Principal Investigator(s): Teresa Adams, UW-Madison

Mark Vonderembse, University of Toledo

Peter Lindquist, University of Toledo

State Job No.: 134263

Agreement No.: 20940

Pooled Fund Study No. (if applicable): TPF5(118)

Project Start Date: Sept. 1, 2005 Contract Funds Approved: \$140,000

Project Completion Date: Nov. 1, 2006 Spent To Date: \$27,221.38

Funds Expended: 19.4% Work Done: 50% Time Expired: 50%

List the Technical Liaisons and other individuals who should receive copies of this report: Kelly Brooker (ODOT), Jerry Workman (ODOT), Don Fisher (ODOT)

**SUMMARY OF PROGRESS FOR QUARTER:**

Attach a progress schedule consisting of graphical information depicting (1) a schedule of research activities tied to the tasks defined in the proposal, (2) a comparative status of actual versus estimated expenditures, and (3) a percentage completion of the research.

Tasks to Complete Project:

UW-Madison Tasks:

Task 1: Maintain and Improve Regional Information System

This task is currently subcontracted to the University of Toledo and is progressing on

schedule. Complete details are posted to the Midwest FreightView website at <http://midwestfreight.utoledo.edu>

Task 2: Outreach on Importance of Freight and Regional Collaborations (materials, presentations, and communication links)

A second round of meetings and gatherings with Ernie Wittwer, Teresa Adams, and the State Departments of Transportation occurred this quarter. These meetings were held to help promote a Regional Freight Agenda. Travel to the states of Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan occurred in March.

A Traffic Operations Partner Forum has been set up for April 24, 2006. This project has incurred a lot of interest and has produced a great turnout so far. There have been two teleconferences to lead up to it and to help prepare for the April Conference. This Forum is to establish an MSTOP within the Upper Midwest and it directly relates to the Freight Study.

Task 3: Research Experts for Consultation

Completed in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, December 31, 2005.

Task 4: Conduct Interviews

Completed in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, December 31, 2005.

Task 5: Draft White Papers

Completed in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, December 31, 2005. White papers will be presented again at April 2006 Meeting in Columbus.

Task 6: November Meeting

Completed in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, December 31, 2005.

Task 7: Review and Approve White Paper Document

Final revisions to the White Papers were completed in February. Several comments were formulated from the November meeting and these were incorporated into the papers. Edits are completed now and the papers are posted online.

Task 8: Revise White Paper Document as Needed

All revisions to the white papers are now complete. The white papers have been reformatted and will be placed as one document (Volume I). This single document will help assemble and guide the draft agenda into a final regional agenda to be developed at the April meeting.

Task 9: Draft Regional Freight Agenda

A draft regional agenda has been revised and circulated first through the research team, then the steering committee, and now the entire group. The agenda is now in final draft form and is ready to be discussed at the April meeting. It has been posted online.

#### Task 10: April Meeting

Planning has continued for the meeting. Projected dates are April 25-26, 2006 in Columbus, Ohio. The meeting will take place all day on the 25 and a half day on the 26. On April 24 will be used to develop the Technology plan and Regional Operations Partnership. Teleconferences were held during February and March to arrange this meeting and develop the regional operations partnership concept.

#### Task 11: Prepare and Submit Regional Agenda Document for Review

A Regional Agenda has been drafted and it will be reviewed at the April Meeting. More to follow in next quarter. Meetings with key stakeholders in Iowa, Ohio, Minnesota, and Wisconsin are scheduled for April.

#### Task 12: Review Regional Agenda

It circulated between all levels of the study and now is posted online until the April meeting, when it will be discussed. The draft agenda has undergone revisions from both the research team and steering committee. After the April meeting, more revisions will be completed to the agenda. More to follow in next quarter.

#### Task 13: Revise Regional Agenda Document as Needed

This task will start next quarter.

#### Task 14: Quarterly Reports

This is the second quarterly report to be submitted for this project. This task is on track according to the timeline.

A subcontract was given to the University of Toledo to complete the following tasks.  
University of Toledo Tasks:

#### Task 15: Improve Documentation of Existing Information

Details forthcoming. For current information, visit the Midwest Freight View website at <http://www.midwestfreight.utoledo.edu/>. A revision to the Users Guide has been posted at the website.

#### Task 16: Develop a Routine Layout to Answer Questions

Details forthcoming. For current information, visit the Midwest Freight View website at <http://www.midwestfreight.utoledo.edu/>

#### Task 17: Begin Dialogue on Freight Modes

Details forthcoming. For current information, visit the Midwest Freight View website at <http://www.midwestfreight.utoledo.edu/>

**Task 18: Review Data Sources**

Details forthcoming. For current information, visit the Midwest Freight View website at <http://www.midwestfreight.utoledo.edu/>

**Task 19: Improve Dialog between Freight System Users**

Planned activity for the April meeting.

**Task 20: Upgrade and Refine Data Resources**

In progress.

**PROPOSED WORK FOR NEW QUARTER:**

For the quarter of April 1, 2006-June 30, 2006, the regional agenda will be finalized. A draft will be ready to be presented at the April Meeting. Final plans for the April meeting will be completed. This meeting will be held in on April 25 (8am-5pm) and April 26 (8am-12pm) in Columbus, OH. In addition, a Regional Traffic Operations Partners Forum will be held by the center on April 24 in Columbus, OH to develop the regional technology plan. If there is a desire to continue with this effort, additional teleconferences will be held in May to develop the plan.

Data developed for the Midwest FreightView (MWFV) data reporting site is posted to the system along with the revised documentation of those data on the MWFV gateway site. At the April meeting, a survey will be conducted to get a better understanding of what data should be posted from the Upper Midwest freight information. A data plan paper will be finalized and posted before the April meeting and will be reviewed and discussed at the meeting.

A IT document will begin to be formulated as part of Volume II.

A presentation to the CEOs at the Mississippi Valley Conference will be the next step for securing buy-in at the regional level. Following that July presentation, the recommendations will be written up and finalized.

**IMPLEMENTATION (if any):**

The Mississippi Valley Meeting in July will offer the first opportunity to bring the key items from the April meeting before the CEOs and gain their buy in.

For current information, visit the Midwest Freight View website at <http://www.midwestfreight.utoledo.edu/> Data website is partially up and running.

**PROBLEMS & RECOMMENDED SOLUTIONS (if applicable):**

Describe any problems encountered or anticipated that might affect the completion of the project within the time, scope, and fiscal constraints set forth in the contract, along with recommended solutions to those problems. NOTING DIFFICULTIES IN THIS

SECTION DOES **NOT** CONSTITUTE A REQUEST TO MODIFY THE PROJECT. Requests for additional time, money, or scope revisions must be submitted in a separate letter to the Office of R&D Administrator.

The only anticipated problem that could delay the project would be the Regional Agenda. Constructing the agenda could take more time and then obtaining agreement by everyone of the agenda could set the project back. This will be better known following the April meeting.

**EQUIPMENT PURCHASED (if any):**

None.

**CONTACTS & MEETINGS:**

Describe any meetings or contacts with ODOT technical liaisons and other pertinent individuals relative to this project.

Several bi-weekly Teleconferences were held with the Research Team. These teleconferences were to keep the work on task and to prepare for the April Conference in Ohio.

Attendees of the Bi-weekly Teleconferences:

Teresa Adams	MRUTC
Jason Bittner	MRUTC
Sam Van Hecke	MRUTC
Kamal Kannan	MRUTC
Raine Gardner	MRUTC
Jiwan Gupta	University of Toledo
Mark Vonderembse	University of Toledo
Peter Lindquist	University of Toledo
Kazuya Kawamura	University of Illinois-Chicago
Ernie Wittwer	Wittwer Consulting

While not specifically involving the formal ODOT liaisons/representatives, teleconferences in February and March were held to plan the April 24<sup>th</sup> Partners Forum. These teleconferences included representation from the Ohio DOT. In addition, team members worked with Ohio DOT and other states in the preliminary development of the Agenda document. State meetings in Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois were also held.