

**State of Wisconsin/Department of Transportation**  
**RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING: March 31, 2009**

<b>Program: SPR-0010(36) FFY99</b>	<b>Part: II Research and Development</b>
<b>Project Title:</b> Mississippi Valley Freight Coalition Pooled Fund <b>Administrative Contact:</b> Jason Bittner <b>WisDOT Technical Contact:</b> Sandy Beaupre <b>Approved by COR/Steering Committee:</b> \$950,000 <b>Project Investigator (agency &amp; contact):</b> Teresa Adams, Ph.D., Director, National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education (CFIRE), University of Wisconsin-Madison.	<b>Project ID:</b> TPF-5(156) <b>Sponsor:</b> MVFC Pooled Fund <b>Approved Starting Date:</b> 2/1/2007 <b>Approved Ending Date:</b> 1/31/2011

**Description:**

Total study budget	Expenditures for current quarter	Total Expenditures to date	Percent Complete
<b>\$449,500</b>	<b>\$69,651</b>	<b>\$374,804</b>	<b>83%</b>

**Progress This Quarter:**

(Includes project committee mtgs, work plan status, contract status, significant progress, etc.)

Pooled Fund Deliverables:

- A Regional Freight Transportation Workshop and Meetings
  - Complete
- A Logistics Course for the Public Sector
  - Complete
- The Development of Model Planning Approaches for Freight Transportation
  - Making revisions to final report/guidebook
- MVFC Expanded Truck Parking Facilities
  - See associated QPR, **MVFC 04**
- Assessment of Multimodal Freight Bottlenecks and Alleviation Strategies for the Upper Midwest Region
  - See associated QPR, **MVFC 05**
- Mississippi Valley Freight Information Clearinghouse
  - See associated QPR, **MVFC 06**
- 2008 MVFC Workshop and Meetings
  - Complete
- Develop Regional Recommendations for Reauthorization
  - See associated QPR, **MVFC 09**
- During the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of AASHTO's Mississippi Valley Conference Board of Directors in Kansas City, MO, the board unanimously approved the work plan for the 2008-2010 cycle.
  - This included an additional \$25,000/state/year contribution. Added to the previous funds for the 2006-2008 cycle, this brings the total to \$950,000 contributed by the 10 states of the MVFC.
  - The projects approved in the 2008-2010 cycle include...
    - Outreach Materials
    - Develop Regional Recommendations for Reauthorization
    - Transportation Profiles for MVFC Commodities and Industries
    - Performance Measures for Evaluating Multistate Projects
    - Critical Sections and Resiliency of Freight Corridors in the MVFC
    - Member Services for the MVFC Pooled Fund Activities
  - All of the contributions from the states are in for the 2008-2010 cycle.
- Website
  - MVFC Facilitator, Ernie Wittwer, and an in-house journalist have re-written the content of the MVFC to make the site easier to navigate, remove clutter, and to bring more attention to the important news items.
  - A student versed in website design is implementing the design.
  - The new MVFC website was rolled out in late January.
- Coalition Action Plan

- The Coalition Action Plan consists of the scope of work for project initiatives. Project scopes were developed for nine of the twelve projects. Additional project scopes from the 2008 – 2010 project cycle will continue to be developed.
- Meeting minutes of the Executive and Technical Committees and the MVTOC can be viewed at <http://www.mississippivalleyfreight.org/>.
  - MVFC Tech committee met on March 5<sup>th</sup> to provide updates on MVFC projects and to discuss the annual MVFC spring meeting upcoming in Kansas City, MO, in April 2009.
  - Mississippi Valley Traffic Operations Coalition met on March 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss current projects, the annual meeting, and also received updates from the N/W Passage and LMIGA.
- Other business:
  - None

**Work Next Quarter:**

- MVFC Projects
  - Work will continue on the projects listed above with work being completed on MVFC 03, MVFC 04, and MVFC 05. Also hope to get MVFC 08: Outreach Materials, MVFC 10: Transportation Profiles for MVFC Commodities and Industries, MVFC 11: Performance Measures for Evaluating Multi-State Projects, and MVFC 12: Critical Sections and Resiliency of Freight Corridors in the MVFC.
- Website
  - With the completion of the website redesign, some work will continue with fixing broken links and replacing lost links.
- Coalition Action Plan
  - Will continue to carry out activities of the Coalition Action Plan.
- Committee Meetings
  - Plan to meet with MVFC Technical Committee in June to discuss the current MVFC projects, discuss the new projects (also looking for committee participation) and will provide a wrap up from the annual spring meeting.
  - Plan to meet with MVTOC on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Circumstances affecting progress/budget:**

- None

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<b>Project Title:</b> Model Freight Planning Approaches for Freight <b>Administrative Contact:</b> Jason Bittner <b>WisDOT Technical Contact:</b> Sandy Beaupre <b>Approved by COR/Steering Committee:</b> \$43,000 <b>Project Investigator (agency &amp; contact):</b> Jessica Guo, UW-Madison	<b>Project ID:</b> MVFC 03 <b>Sponsor:</b> MVFC Pooled Fund <b>Approved Starting Date:</b> 2/1/07 <b>Approved Ending Date:</b> 9/30/2009

**Description:**

<b>Total study budget</b>	<b>Expenditures for current quarter</b>	<b>Total Expenditures to date</b>	<b>Percent Complete</b>
<b>\$43,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$37,423</b>	<b>95%</b>

**Progress This Quarter:**

(Includes project committee mtgs, work plan status, contract status, significant progress, etc.)

- Project final report was reviewed by the project advisory committee (PAC) and comments were received in March.
- Research team began revising the report to address the PAC's comments.

**Work Next Quarter:**

- Revise the final report to address the PAC's comments and forward to PAC for re-review.

**Circumstances affecting progress/budget:**

An additional task (#11) is now listed to indicate the remaining work on report revision.

**Gantt Chart:**

Task/Month	2007												2008												2009											
	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S				
1. Review and summarize Federal guidelines	X	X																																		
2. Literature review and draft survey	X	X																																		
3. Prepare audio PowerPoint on Federal guidelines							X																													
4. Prepare interview questions and survey tool			X	X	X																															
5. Conduct telephone interviews and on-line survey				X	X	X	X	X																												
6. Summarize interview and survey findings; define course focus and draft outline of guidebook.						X	X	X	X	X	X																									
7. Prepare PowerPoint presentation on findings								X	X	X	X																									
8. Prepare and visit planning agencies							X	X	X	X	X	X																								
9. Write guidebook									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																	
10. Prepare audio PowerPoint on guidebook													X	X	X	X	X	X	X																	
11. Review and revise guidebook													X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X					

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<b>Program: SPR-0010(36) FFY99</b>	<b>Part: II Research and Development</b>
<b>Project Title:</b> MVFC Expanded Truck Parking <b>Administrative Contact:</b> Jason Bittner <b>WisDOT Technical Contact:</b> Dave Simon <b>Approved by COR/Steering Committee:</b> \$70,000 <b>Project Investigator (agency &amp; contact):</b> Teresa Adams, UW-Madison	<b>Project ID:</b> MVFC 04 <b>Sponsor:</b> MVFC Pooled Fund <b>Approved Starting Date:</b> 11/1/07 <b>Approved Ending Date:</b> 5/31/09

**Description:**

Total study budget	Expenditures for current quarter	Total Expenditures to date	Percent Complete
<b>\$70,000</b>	<b>\$5,174</b>	<b>\$62,647</b>	<b>90%</b>

**Progress This Quarter:**

Set up a booth at the Peoria, IL Midwest Truck Show on Feb 6 and 7th. Conducted over 70 surveys to capture truck drivers input on locations with critical truck parking shortages and ramp parking issues. Collected about 80 problematic parking locations.

We got parking facilities marked in all the 10-states; however we got most of the markers in the Illinois state and in Chicago area because most of the truck drivers at the event were local. Participants mentioned many important facts about parking issues other than what we covered in the questionnaires which should be very useful for the project report.

Contacted DOTs in MI, OH, and KY to get more survey responses. Collected about 65 parking facilities with truck parking shortfalls and ramp parking problems.

Carried out spatial analysis of the data collected in the surveys using K-means cluster algorithm to determine the priority spatial locations with truck parking issues.

Revised the draft of project report. Added more maps/results and suggested solutions based on the survey participants responses.

Contacted Minnesota, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan law enforcement and State DOT's about the current state of the truck parking situation, law enforcement strategies, the cost of maintenance and plans, if any for new trucking facilities.

Met with Illinois DOT about Intelligent Transportation Systems, discussed the use of 511 in Wisconsin and other mechanisms of advance communication.

Interviewed Parking Carma about their use of reservation systems and truck lot counting technology for pilot projects in California. Met with UC Berkeley and Navteq representatives at TRB to discuss how Caltrans is approaching truck parking and advance registration systems for users.

The research team met on March 10<sup>th</sup> by teleconference to review the report/revise the report outline.

**Work Next Quarter:**

Compiling truck parking inventory database and working on correlation analysis of the problem truck parking facilities and existing truck parking facilities.

Addition of results from F2F and telephone interviews of people in trucking industry.

Detailed geo-spatial analysis for the parking facilities along Wisconsin interstate and state highways.

Revision of project draft report with new geo-spatial and statistical results.

Final report submission.

**Circumstances affecting progress/budget:** none

**Gantt Chart:**

Task/Month	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Literature Review of Parking Management	done	done	done																
Inventory designated parking facilities along MVFC freight corridors		done	done	done	done														
Develop an interactive GIS tool to determine ramp parking			done	done	done	done													
Survey of highway patrol on ramp parking							done	done	done										
Interview carriers to determine issues at certain locations								done	done	done	done	done	done	done	done	done			
Identify low cost strategies							done	done	done	done	done	done	done	done	done	done	done		
Re-fine ranking and evaluate strategies									done	done	done	done	done	done	done	done	done		
Overview of IT technologies for truck parking space utilization.		done	done	done	done	done	done	done	done	done	done	done	done	done	done	done	done		
Final report including recommendations												to do	to do	to do	to do	to do	to do	to do	to do

	In progress
	done
	to do

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<b>Program: SPR-0010(36) FFY99</b>	<b>Part: II Research and Development</b>
<b>Project Title:</b> Assessment of Multimodal Freight Bottlenecks and Alleviation Strategies for the Upper Midwest Region	<b>Project ID:</b> MVFC 05
<b>Administrative Contact:</b> Jason Bittner	<b>Sponsor:</b> MVFC Pooled Fund
<b>WisDOT Technical Contact:</b> Sandy Beaupre	<b>Approved Starting Date:</b> October 1, 2007
<b>Approved by COR/Steering Committee:</b> \$92,500	<b>Approved Ending Date:</b> Jun 30, 2009
<b>Project Investigator (agency &amp; contact):</b> Jessica Guo, University of Wisconsin - Madison	

**Description:**

The project aims to develop a prioritized list of freight bottlenecks in the Mississippi Valley Region and to identify effective strategies for alleviating the bottlenecks. Specific tasks include:

1. Review existing studies on freight bottleneck analysis and ranking methodologies.
2. Interview major stakeholders to identify the locations and conditions of freight transportation bottlenecks.
3. Identify a list of potential freight bottlenecks in the region and develop an analysis framework for determining the relative rankings of bottlenecks.
4. Collect and compile existing data that describe the conditions of freight bottlenecks.
5. Develop preliminary rankings of freight bottlenecks across the different modes.
6. Develop a web-based DSS for reviewing and adjusting bottleneck rankings.
7. Deploy the web-based DSS to obtain the final bottleneck rankings.
8. Obtain information pertaining to the schedule and the nature of planned improvement projects in the MVFC region for addressing the bottlenecks.
9. Develop a list of recommendations regarding how to address regionally significant bottlenecks in a coordinated and effective manner.
10. Prepare the final report.

Total study budget	Expenditures for current quarter	Total Expenditures to date	Percent Complete
<b>\$92,500</b>	<b>\$20,162</b>	<b>\$58,278</b>	<b>87%</b>

**Progress This Quarter:**

(Includes project committee mtgs, work plan status, contract status, significant progress, etc.)

Provided progress update to TOC on March 5, 2009, and to MVTOC on March 4, 2009.

Task 2: The research team established contact and interviewed with a few more rail and port operators to obtain information regarding bottlenecks (the latest being the Union Pacific Rail about their CREATE projects and problem in Clinton, IA)

Task 3: Completed. The research team refined the analysis methodology developed in the last quarter based on the feedback provided by MVFC member DOT representatives.

Task 4: Additional information was collected for rail and port modes.

Task 5: Ranked list of highway bottlenecks is completed. Discussion with port and rail operators and DOT staff suggested that detailed data is not available (regarded as highly confidential) for the comprehensive analysis of regional rail and port bottlenecks. Therefore, as reported to the TOC on March 5, the ranked list of freight bottlenecks will focus on truck only. Data and information collected regarding specific rail and port bottlenecks will be presented as case studies.

Task 6: Implementation of the web-based DSS is completed and is undergoing final testing and fine tuning.

Task 8: Completed. All congestion/bottleneck alleviation projects reported by the MVFC states have been inventoried and geocoded.



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<b>Program: SPR-0010(36) FFY99</b>	<b>Part: II Research and Development</b>
<b>Project Title:</b> Mississippi Valley Freight Information Clearinghouse <b>Administrative Contact:</b> Peter Rafferty <b>WisDOT Technical Contact:</b> John Corbin <b>Approved by COR/Steering Committee:</b> \$150,000 <b>Project Investigator (agency &amp; contact):</b> David Noyce, UW-Madison	<b>Project ID:</b> MVFC 06 <b>Sponsor:</b> MVFC Pooled Fund <b>Approved Starting Date:</b> 12/1/07 <b>Approved Ending Date:</b> 8/31/09

**Description:**

Total study budget	Expenditures for current quarter	Total Expenditures to date	Percent Complete
<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$110,000</b>	<b>80%</b>

**Progress This Quarter:**

(Includes project committee mtgs, work plan status, contract status, significant progress, etc.)

The project has progressed very well this quarter. Project working group continues to meet every week. Items of discussion include project schedule, current tasks, and upcoming tasks. Other meetings include the MVTOC teleconference(s) and associated project-specific status teleconferences to which everybody who is interested is invited to call in.

In addition to the progress noted on previous quarterly reports, the surveys both to the motor carriers (web) and to DOT personnel / regulators (phone) have been completed and analysis is now complete and documented in the draft report. The outreach and contacts were achieved in collaboration with each state's motor carrier associations and the other two MVFC projects with survey efforts. The surveys were only possible by hiring additional resources to make direct phone calls. Initial response to the web survey was negligible.

As part of the MVTOC and MVFC Technical Committee conference calls in early March, we presented this project and did a web-based demo of the Clearinghouse prototype. The response was highly agreeable, but we continue to welcome feedback, comments, questions, suggestions, etc. The prototype will be on display and available for review at the Coalition meeting in Kansas in mid April.

**Work Next Quarter:**

The prototype is completed, and the report documentation is underway, including some high level resource estimates for different options of moving forward. We expect to provide a draft for anybody who wishes to review it before the April Kansas meeting. This draft will be available via the Clearinghouse home page.

The first part of next quarter (April) is primarily reserved for collecting feedback on the web prototype itself and the report draft. The project is still expected to conclude by mid May, although we have extended the timeline through the end of the summer and are prepared for any lingering follow up that may be required.

**Circumstances affecting progress/budget:**

No new issues to report. This project remains on time and on budget.



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<b>Program: SPR-0010(36) FFY99</b>		<b>Part: II Research and Development</b>	
<b>Project Title:</b> Develop Regional Recommendations for Reauthorization		<b>Project ID:</b> MVFC 09	
<b>Administrative Contact:</b> Jason Bittner		<b>Sponsor:</b> MVFC Pooled Fund	
<b>WisDOT Technical Contact:</b> Beth Nachreiner		<b>Approved Starting Date:</b> 9/1/08	
<b>Approved by COR/Steering Committee:</b> \$53,250		<b>Approved Ending Date:</b> 6/30/09	
<b>Project Investigator (agency &amp; contact):</b> Teresa Adams, UW-Madison			

**Description:**

<b>Total study budget</b>	<b>Expenditures for current quarter</b>	<b>Total Expenditures to date</b>	<b>Percent Complete</b>
<b>\$53,250</b>	<b>\$9,315</b>	<b>\$9,315</b>	<b>70%</b>

**Progress This Quarter:**

Positions were documented.  
Revised materials have been sent to states for a second review.

**Work Next Quarter:**

- Positions will be reviewed by the states and revised as needed
- Information will be collected on projects that might be forthcoming under the recommended freight program
- Out reach materials will be developed for review
- Positions and materials will be approved by the states
- A virtual workshop will be developed

**Circumstances affecting progress/budget:**

Much of the effort in the project has been accomplished by a CFIRE staff person, whose time has not been charged to the project. Therefore, project costs do not reflect the overall progress. We have had major delays on the part of state staff in reviewing materials. As of this date only five of the ten states have responded to a 2/23 deadline.

Gantt Chart:

Task/Month	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J
Prepare and gain approval of a work plan	█									
Identify an advisory/working committee	█									
Identify liaisons with the MVC policy group		█								
Collect and synthesize materials		█								
Identify specific issues		█								
Collect information on potential projects		█	█							
Develop short issue papers		█	█							
Convene the advisory/working/policy groups				█						
Document positions				█	█					
Share positions with the larger MVFC				█	█					
Modify positions as needed					█					
Share positions with the policy group					█					
Finalize positions						█				
Prepare supporting materials							█			
Monitor the process							█	█		
Revise positions as needed							█	█	█	
Interact with MVC policy group	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█

MVFC Annual Mtg. 4/15&16

Based on this schedule, the project is about 2 weeks behind schedule. It will be completed on time.

The project is now (4/1) about two months behind, due largely to the inability of the states to review and comment on draft materials. It will still be done within schedule.