

# RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
DT1241 4/2010

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Research project investigators and/or project managers should complete a quarterly progress report (QPR) for each calendar quarter during which the projects are active.

<b>WisDOT research program category:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Policy research <input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin Highway Research Program <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pooled fund TPF# 5(156)		Report period year: 2010 <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 1 (Jan 1 – Mar 31) <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 2 (Apr 1 – Jun 30) <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 3 (Jul 1 – Sep 30) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarter 4 (Oct 1 – Dec 31)
Project title: <a href="#">Mississippi Valley Freight Coalition Pooled Fund</a>		
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WisDOT project ID: <a href="#">TPF-5(156)</a>	Other project ID: <a href="#">MVFC 13</a>	Project start date: <a href="#">2/1/2007</a>
Original end date: <a href="#">1/31/2011</a>	Current end date: <a href="#">9/30/2011</a>	Number of extensions: -

**Project schedule status:**

On schedule                     
  On revised schedule                     
  Ahead of schedule                     
  Behind schedule

**Project budget status:**

Total Project Budget	Expenditures Current Quarter	Total Expenditures	% Funds Expended	% Work Completed
\$949,500.00	\$57,537.00	\$801,207.00	84%	95%

**Project description:**

The industries and farms of the Mississippi Valley region can compete in the marketplace only if their products can move reliably, safely and at reasonable cost to market. Growing congestion threatens the sustainability of this freight movement. The people of the region are dependent upon farms and industries for their livelihoods and their economic quality of life depends on the flow of goods to our markets. The Mississippi Valley Freight Coalition (MVFC) was created to protect and support the economic wellbeing of the industries, farms and people of the region by keeping the products of those industries, farms and people flowing to markets reliably, safely, and efficiently.

The goal of this pooled fund is to improve the efficiency of freight movements in the region through inter-jurisdictional cooperation. Through the Mississippi Valley Freight Coalition, the states will work cooperatively in the planning, operation, preservation, and improvement of the freight transportation system infrastructure and engage the public and private sectors in the processes for improving the efficiency of these freight transportation systems.

Through research projects, workshops and outreach efforts, the MVFC expects to achieve its goal via the accomplishment of the following objectives:

- Share information between agencies that will improve the understanding of freight issues and the management of freight services and facilities
- Reach out to and share ideas with private sector shippers and carriers on approaches to making freight flow more smoothly through the region
- Gather, analyze and share information on the movement of freight throughout the region with sister agencies and with private sector interests
- Define a system of regionally significant freight highway, rail and water corridors and facilities and establish performance expectations for those facilities that will guide their management and operations

- Evaluate and recommend effective technologies and other roadway appurtenances from a regional perspective and in a manner that supports the reliable, efficient and safe movement of freight
- Evaluate and recommend effective traffic and vehicle regulations that promote the reliable, efficient and safe movement of freight
- Identify corridors or bottlenecks that frustrate the movement of freight and then taking actions, individually or as a group, to improve those corridors or bottlenecks
- Define and support national transportation policies that will support and improve the movement of freight in the region

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

Pooled Fund Deliverables:

- A Regional Freight Transportation Workshop and Meetings
  - o Complete
- A Logistics Course for the Public Sector
  - o Complete
- The Development of Model Planning Approaches for Freight Transportation
  - o Complete
- MVFC Expanded Truck Parking Facilities
  - o Complete
- Assessment of Multimodal Freight Bottlenecks and Alleviation Strategies for the Upper Midwest Region
  - o Complete, under final review post editing by PI. Will be delivered in July 2010
- Mississippi Valley Freight Information Clearinghouse
  - o Complete
- 2008 MVFC Workshop and Meetings
  - o Complete
- MVFC Outreach Materials
  - o See associated QPR, MVFC 8
- Develop Regional Recommendations for Reauthorization
  - o Complete
- Transportation Profiles for MVFC Commodities
  - o See associated QPR, MVFC 10
- Freight Performance Measures for Evaluating Multi-state projects
  - o See associated QPR, MVFC 11
- Critical Sections For and Resiliency of Freight Corridors in the MVFC
  - o MVFC 12, under contract in July 2010
- Annual Meeting
  - o MVFC Annual meeting was held in April in Cincinnati, Ohio
- Website
  - o MVFC Facilitator, Ernie Wittwer, and an in-house journalist have re-written the content of the MVFC and continued to edit the site, making it easier to navigate, remove clutter, and to bring more attention to the important news items.
  - o The new MVFC website was rolled out in late January.
- Coalition Action Plan
  - o The Coalition Action Plan consists of the scope of work for project initiatives. Project scopes were for a regional freight plan.
- Meeting minutes of the Executive and Technical Committees and the MVTOC can be viewed at <http://www.mississippivalleyfreight.org/>.
  - o Tech committee meeting in Milwaukee on December 9-10 to discuss details and components of the regional freight plan, the primary project of the FY11-12 workplan
  - o MVFC Tech committee met on March 5th to provide updates on MVFC projects and to discuss the annual MVFC spring meeting in Kansas City, MO, in April 2009.
  - o Mississippi Valley Traffic Operations Coalition met on March 4th to discuss current projects, the annual meeting, and also received updates from the N/W Passage and LMIGA.
- Other business:
  - o MVFC was officially re-named the Mid America Freight Coalition, to reflect the change in the AASHTO 'MASTO' group.
  - o 2011 Annual meeting will be in St Louis on April 26-28.
  - o Annual meeting was held April 27-29, 2010 in Cincinnati, OH. Staff worked with state representatives to complete meeting details, agenda, recruit speakers, and organize related activities.
- ☑ Ernie Wittwer facilitated a business meeting during the final day of the event to discuss next steps and MVFC renewal

- As a result of the business meeting, a draft workplan for FY11-12 was circulated to MVFC members for review and input
- o Workplan was presented and approved FY11-12 was presented at the MVC Executive Committee meeting in July

**Anticipated work next quarter:**

- MVFC Projects
- o Work will continue on the projects listed above with work being completed on MVFC 08 , MVFC 10, 11 and 12.
- Website
- o With the completion of the website redesign, some work will continue with fixing broken links and replacing lost links.
- o Outreach materials will be incorporated into the website, including interactive graphs and charts
- Coalition Action Plan
- o Will continue to carry out activities of the Coalition Action Plan.
- o Work will focus on main tenets of the “Regional Freight Plan”
- Committee Meetings
- o Regular call with technical committee for regional plan efforts.

**Circumstances affecting project or budget:**

none

**Attach / insert Gantt chart and other project documentation**

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Staff receiving QPR:	Date received:
Staff approving QPR:	Date approved: