

State of Wisconsin/Department of Transportation
RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING: September 30, 2008

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

Description:

Total study budget	Expenditures for current quarter	Total Expenditures to date	Percent Complete
\$449,500	\$18,772	\$240,934	54%

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
 - See associated QPR, **MVFC 03**
- 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
- During the July 8th 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
- Website
 - Have continued to make necessary updates to www.mississippivalleyfreight.org, including additions to format and current events, and www.wistrans.org/cfire (MVFC projects are contained here), including upcoming events related to freight; and posting minutes from meetings of the Executive and Technical Committees and the Mississippi Valley Traffic Operations Coalition.
 - MVFC Facilitator, Ernie Wittwer, is working with in-house journalist to reconfigure the MVFC website. Stay tuned.
- Coalition Action Plan
 - The Coalition Action Plan consists of the scope of work for project initiatives. Project scopes were developed for all seven projects. Additional project scopes have been added for the six projects of the 2008-2010 cycle as approved by the Executive Committee and awarded through the MVFC Pooled Fund.

- Committee Meetings (at least semi-annual) Executive and Technical Committee meeting minutes can be viewed at <http://www.mississippivalleyfreight.org/>.
 - MVFC Tech committee did not meet during this quarter as they are only required to meet twice/year.
 - Mississippi Valley Traffic Operations Coalition: (Minutes of the MVTOC can be viewed at <http://www.mississippivalleyfreight.org/traffic.htm>)
 - Conference call on September 10th included project updates on MVFC 04, 05, and 06. Other business included a of Michigan's truck parking approach, discussion of a cooperative approach to permitting and route selection, and introduction of the new 2008-2010 projects.
- Other business:
 - None

Work Next Quarter:

- MVFC Projects
 - Work will continue on the projects listed above with work being completed on MVFC 03.
- Website
 - Will continue to update the current MVFC website as needed, while reconfiguring it offline.
- Coalition Action Plan
 - Will continue to carry out activities of the Coalition Action Plan.
- Committee Meetings
 - Plan to meet with MVFC Technical Committee on October 10th to discuss the current MVFC projects, discuss the new projects (also looking for committee participation) and will also discuss the agenda for the annual spring meeting.

Circumstances affecting progress/budget:

- None

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Program: SPR-0010(36) FFY99	Part: II Research and Development
Project Title: MVFC Expanded Truck Parking Facilities	Project ID: MVFC 04
Administrative Contact: Nikki Hatch	Sponsor: MVFC Pooled Fund
WisDOT Technical Contact: Dave Simon	Approved Starting Date: 11/1/2007
Approved by COR/Steering Committee:	Approved Ending Date: 1/31/2009
Project Investigator (agency & contact): CFIRE, University of Wisconsin, Teresa Adams/Xiubin Wang	

Description:

Provide information necessary for states to consider increasing short term truck parking availability in the locations where it is needed most along the interstate highways in the region.

Supply states in the 10-state Mississippi Valley region with valuable information regarding where parking facility improvements are most needed and why, along with important characteristics of new facilities.

Total study budget	Current FFY budget	Expenditures for current quarter	Total Expenditures to date	Percent Complete
\$70,000	\$70,000	\$8,763	\$39,802	60%

Progress This Quarter:

Set up a booth at the Walcott, IA Truck Jamboree on July 10 and 11th. Conducted over 120 surveys to capture driver input on locations with critical Truck Parking Shortages. Collected about 90 complete surveys and 130 problematic parking locations.

Interviewed. Tested data collection tool with over 200 truck drivers from more than 20 states nationwide who attended the Walcott Truckers' Jamboree. Collected about 74 complete surveys and mapped around 72 locations with critical shortfalls.

Set up a booth at Oshkosh, WI at a music concert for truckers and collected 19 complete surveys.

Collected other 40 survey responses via internet from truckers, freight planners and highway patrol. In total, got over **222 surveys** and **269 locations** collected by now.

Reviewed and fine tuned data collection tool.

Developed a beta version of survey data visualization tool.

July 22, 2008 – Advisory Committee Conference call, Identified similar projects in other regions. Followed up with new source materials on Smart Parking Project.

August 2008 - Identified Highway patrol stations in the region. Contacted enforcement officers about enforcement practices and chronic problem spots.

August 8-9, 2008 Waupun Truck In truck show – collected 74 surveys from drivers about truck parking issues and shortages in the region. Contacted enforcement officers about regional issues and enforcement practices.

Interviewed truckload carriers based in IN, WI, OH, MN, IL and IA about low cost solutions and suggestions to remediate truck parking problems.

Contacted Motor Carrier Association in the MVFC region about contacts and events to collect suggestions and solutions strategies for low cost parking options.

August 12, 2008 Fly In Truck Stop Parking Appreciation picnic. Collected 19 surveys from regional drivers.

August 14-15, 2008 presented low cost strategies findings of study at 2008 MidContinent Transportation Research Forum. Attended by DOT's, researchers and consultants in the MVFC region.

Documented work progress to date.

Work Next Quarter:

Review IT strategies in other regions to determine what is practical and acceptable in the MVFC region. Collaborate with leaders in the research field who are exploring Smart Parking options and technology

Refine Ranking and evaluation criteria. Provide prioritized project list with justification strategies.

Complete final report

Circumstances affecting progress/budget:

As many State DOT's are recognizing a short fall of revenue the need for low cost solutions becomes more important. With a soft economy the number of trucks on the road has diminished. Fewer drivers and trucking companies are attending outreach events due to cost considerations.

Bruce Wang has moved to TX – off site coordination is more difficult

Gantt Chart:

Task/Month	Nov	De	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Au	Sep	Oct	Nov	De	Jan
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							in progress	in progress	in progress						
Interview carriers to determine issues at certain locations								in progress	in progress	in progress					
Identify low cost strategies							in progress	in progress	in progress	in progress					
Re-fine ranking and evaluate strategies										to do	to do	to do			
Overview of IT technologies for truck parking space utilization.		to do	to do	to do	to do	to do	to do	to do	to do	to do	to do				
Final report including recommendations												to do	to do	to do	to do



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RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING: Sep 30, 2008

Program: SPR-0010(36) FFY99	Part: II Research and Development
Project Title: Assessment of Multimodal Freight Bottlenecks and Alleviation Strategies for the Upper Midwest Region	Project ID: MVFC 05
Administrative Contact: Jason Bittner	Sponsor: MVFC
WisDOT Technical Contact:	Approved Starting Date: October 1, 2007
Approved by COR/Steering Committee: \$92,500	Approved Ending Date: June 30, 2009
Project Investigator (agency & contact): 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
\$92,500	\$7,718	\$23,955	60%

Progress This Quarter:

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

Task 2: The research team collected 100 responses through face-to-face interviews with truckers at three trucking events. The online survey has been open since August, 2008. However, few responses have been received. The research team has continued to seek opportunities for outreach reach to potential survey respondents.

Task 3: User nominated bottlenecks identified from Task 2 through both paper-based and online surveys have been entered and into the central database. Multiple bottleneck measurement and ranking methods have been reviewed to identify methods that are applicable to the available data.

Task 4: The research team continued to collect highway capacity, volume, and LOS data from member state DOTs. Additional Federal datasets, including the FAF, GeoGreight, and the HPMS universe and sample data have been examined. Also, data describing rails and ports in the region are being collected.

Task 5: Alternative analysis methods identified in Task 3 are being tested and applied to the available data.

Task 8: The research team continued to collect information from the MVFC states regarding congestion/bottleneck alleviation projects.

Work Next Quarter:

- Expand survey sample to obtain a satisfactory inventory of user nominated bottlenecks (tasks 2 & 3)

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Program: SPR-0010(36) FFY99	Part: II Research and Development
Project Title: Mississippi Valley Freight Info Clearinghouse	Project ID: MVFC 06
Administrative Contact: Peter Rafferty	Sponsor: MVFC Pooled Fund
WisDOT Technical Contact: John Corbin	Approved Starting Date: 12/1/07
Approved by COR/Steering Committee: \$150,000	Approved Ending Date: 2/22/09
Project Investigator (agency & contact): David Noyce, UW-Madison, 608-265-1882, noyce@engr.wisc.edu	

Description:

Total study budget	Current FFY budget	Expenditures for current quarter	Total Expenditures to date	Percent Complete
\$150,000	\$80,000	\$5,000	\$35,000	23%

Progress This Quarter:

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

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 the monthly status teleconferences to which everybody who is interested is invited to call into.

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 finalized and are currently underway. The outreach and contacts have been achieved in collaboration with each state's motor carrier associations and the other two MVFC projects with survey efforts. With the postponement of those surveys due to necessary MVFC coordination, the project has instead progressed further in other key areas. These include the feasibility exploration, high level architecture, and the web prototype mockup. Each of these are over 50% completed.

Work Next Quarter:

Complete the surveys and analysis. With that information, continue the work on the draft of the concept of operations (data, standards, operations, routing, etc.). From there begin broaching the high level system requirements.

Circumstances affecting progress/budget:

Loss of key PhD-level project lead; tasks have been shifted to others. No budget implications, but minor schedule extension is anticipated. With the low response to the web survey, the project team will be reaching out via phone to motor carriers to gather additional responses.

