

State of Wisconsin/Department of Transportation
RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING: December 31, 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	\$55,173	\$305,153	68%

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
 - Assembling 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 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
 - The states are still in the process of obligating funds to the pooled fund, therefore there has been a slight delay in starting some of the projects approved 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 working to make that vision a reality. We plan to have the new website up by early February 2009.
- 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 as funds from the states become available.
- Committee Meetings (at least semi-annual) Executive and Technical Committee meeting minutes can be viewed at <http://www.mississippivalleyfreight.org/>.
 - MVFC Tech committee met on October 10th 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: (Minutes of the MVTOC can be viewed at <http://www.mississippivalleyfreight.org/traffic.htm>)
 - Conference call on November 5th included project updates on MVFC 04, 05, and 06. Other business included an update from the Lake Michigan Interstate Gateway Alliance and discussion of the upcoming MVFC annual meeting in KC, MO.
- Other business:
 - None

Work Next Quarter:

- MVFC Projects
 - Work will continue on the projects listed above with work being completed on MVFC 03. 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
 - Will complete the reconfiguration of the MVFC website by early February.
- Coalition Action Plan
 - Will continue to carry out activities of the Coalition Action Plan.
- Committee Meetings
 - Plan to meet with MVFC Technical Committee on January 22nd 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.
 - Plan to meet with MVTOC on February 11th to go over progress of MVFC projects and to discuss the MVFC 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: Jason Bittner		Sponsor: MVFC Pooled Fund	
WisDOT Technical Contact: Dave Simon		Approved Starting Date: 11/1/2007	
Approved by COR/Steering Committee: \$70,000		Approved Ending Date: 1/31/2009; requesting ncte to 5/31/2009	
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	\$17,671	\$59,701	80%

Progress This Quarter:

- Interviews in October with WI Dept of Commerce, WI Dept of Tourism and WI Highway Patrol about truck parking and potential communication of available sites.
- Interviews with software and GIS device manufacturers about how to download parking info in “favorites” section of personal navigators.
- 2 Stakeholder briefing conference calls on project updates.
- Data analysis is finished. It includes analysis on participants, comparison between participating groups, geographical distribution of locations identified with truck parking problems with the region, and causes for those problems. Method to cluster locations is also developed.
- Graduate student defended thesis on the topic.

Work Next Quarter:

- Set up meeting with Bob Frey about integrating ITS systems and 511 networks for parking identification.
- Hold research team meeting to coordinate efforts of both truck parking projects and develop plan to complete project.
- Attend Midwest Trucker’s Association Truck Show and Convention, Feb. 5-7 in Peoria, IL to collect addition data and conduct more interviews.

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

A no-cost time extension to May 31, 2009 is requested. During a presentation to the oversight committee they requested that we investigate the 511 advance communication system. There are several elements which are being worked in tandem with the Wisconsin truck parking project. It would be beneficial to have both of these projects on the same timeline.

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									done	done	done	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress
Identify low cost strategies							done	done	done	done	done	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.		done	done	done	done	done	done	done	done	done	done	done	In progress	In progress	In progress
Final report including recommendations												to do	to do	to do	to do

In progress
 done
 to do

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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 Pooled Fund
WisDOT Technical Contact: Sandy Beaupre	Approved Starting Date: October 1, 2007
Approved by COR/Steering Committee: \$91,690	Approved Ending Date: March 31, 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
\$91,690	\$14,161	\$40,793	75%

Progress This Quarter:

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

Task 2: The research team continued to seek opportunities for outreach reach to potential survey respondents, but received few additional responses. Several rail and port operators have also been interviewed.

Task 3: Completed the implementation of a methodology that identifies the location and severity of four types of highway-mode bottlenecks. The methodology has also been applied to the ten state region to produce a ranked list of highway bottlenecks based on the latest HPMS and FAF data.

Task 4: The research team finished acquiring all data needed for characterizing the highway bottlenecks. Several datasets have also been collected for rail and port modes.

Task 5: The data available to date have not been sufficient to support ranking of bottlenecks across the different modes.

Task 6: A prototype of the web-based DSS has been developed and is undergoing functional testing.

Task 8: The research team has finished collecting information from the MVFC states regarding congestion/bottleneck alleviation projects. An inventory of projects has been set up accordingly in a database.

Task 10: The research team has begun documenting the research methodology and data sources.

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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	\$23,340	\$73,237	45%

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 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 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. The surveys were only possible by hiring additional resources to make direct phone calls. Response to the web survey continued to be negligible.

Progress in other areas include feasibility exploration and concept of operations, high level architecture, and the web prototype mockup. Each of these are over 50% completed. The web prototype mockup in particular has already progressed well beyond the scope of this project (freight.engr.wisc.edu).

Work Next Quarter:

Complete analysis of the surveys. With that information, complete portion of report on the concept of operations (data, standards, operations, routing, etc.). Continue work on final report, particularly high level system requirements and cost estimates.

Circumstances affecting progress/budget:

Loss of key PhD-level project lead; tasks have been shifted to others. Surveys had to be completed by telephone. No budget implications, but no cost schedule extension is necessary.

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RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING: December 31, 2008

Program: SPR-0010(36) FFY99	Part: II Research and Development
Project Title: Develop Regional Recommendations for Reauthorization	Project ID: MVFC 09
Administrative Contact: Jason Bittner	Sponsor: MVFC Pooled Fund
WisDOT Technical Contact: Beth Nachreiner	Approved Starting Date: Sept. 1, 2008
Approved by COR/Steering Committee:	Approved Ending Date: June 30, 2009
Project Investigator (agency & contact): Teresa Adams, UW-Madison	

Description: Develop a regional position relative to freight for reauthorization.

Total study budget	Expenditures for current quarter	Total Expenditures to date	Percent Complete
53,250	-0-	-0-	65%

Progress This Quarter: The project made significant progress in this quarter:

- A project committee and liaisons to the regional policy group were defined
- Three teleconferences were held with the project committee
- Summaries of the AASHTO, ARTBA, AAR, and Chamber positions were developed
- Issue papers and background materials were developed on five specific issues
- A two day meeting of the committee and liaisons was held to define regional positions
- Regional positions were found on all the issues

Work Next Quarter: Over the next quarter:

- Positions will be documented
- 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 workshop, which will be held at the MVFC annual meeting in April 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.

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.