

**State of Wisconsin/Department of Transportation**  
**RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING: December 31, 2007**

<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>Project ID:</b> TPF-5(156)
<b>Administrative Contact:</b> Jason Bittner	<b>Sponsor:</b> MVFC Pooled Fund
<b>WisDOT Technical Contact:</b> Sandy Beaupre	<b>Approved Starting Date:</b> 2/1/2007
<b>Approved by COR/Steering Committee:</b> \$137,000	<b>Approved Ending Date:</b> 1/31/2009
<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.	

**Description:**

Total study budget	Expenditures for current quarter	Total Expenditures to date	Percent Complete
<b>\$229,500</b>	<b>\$16,473</b>	<b>\$99,714</b>	<b>43%</b>

**Progress This Quarter:**

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

Pooled Fund Deliverables:

- Three Priority Initiatives
  - A Regional Freight Transportation Workshop and Meetings
    - See associated QPR, **MVFC 01**
  - A Logistics Course for the Public Sector
    - See associated QPR, **MVFC 02**
  - The Development of Model Planning Approaches for Freight Transportation
    - See associated QPR, **MVFC 03**
- Additional projects: As noted in the September 30, 2007 quarterly report, four additional projects were approved by the Executive Committee on July 9, 2007. All four of those projects has gone through refinement of the project scope (based on comments received by the Executive Committee), review, and now contracting. One of those projects has been awarded (below), while the others all expected to be awarded during the first quarter of calendar year 2008.
  - Assessment of Multimodal Freight Bottlenecks and Alleviation Strategies for the Upper Midwest Region
    - See associated QPR, **MVFC 05**
- Website
  - Have continued to make necessary updates to [www.mississippivalleyfreight.org](http://www.mississippivalleyfreight.org) and [www.wistrans.org/cfire](http://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.
- Coalition Action Plan
  - The Coalition Action Plan consists of the scope of work for project initiatives. Project scopes were developed for all three projects. Additional project scopes are added as projects are 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/>.
  - Executive: Meeting of the AASHTO's Mississippi Valley Conference on July 9 – 11<sup>th</sup> where CFIRE Director, Teresa Adams presented initiatives from above for Committee consideration and approval – all were approved.
  - Technical:
    - Teleconference on June 20, 2007, provided updates on the progress of MVFC 02 and MVFC 03. Four problem statements (listed above under Coalition Action Plan) were recommended for approval.
  - Mississippi Valley Traffic Operations Coalition: (Minutes of the MVTOC can be viewed at <http://www.mississippivalleyfreight.org/traffic.htm>)
    - Conference call on October 17<sup>th</sup> provided an update on the Clearinghouse and Truck Parking projects.
- Other business:
  - On November 16<sup>th</sup> in Madison, Wisconsin, CFIRE hosted a workshop in an effort to define its freight transportation research roadmap and research priorities for 2008 and 2009. CFIRE supports research to improve freight movement,

increase freight capacity, and improve public sector decision-making related to freight. The results of this workshop can be viewed at <http://www.wistrans.org/cfire/Research/Nov16/index.htm>.

- The MVFC will be holding its second Regional Freight Workshop on March 31 to April 2, 2008 in Indianapolis. We intend to provide updates of the ongoing research, conduct an associated workshop on the previously mentioned truck parking project, and develop the region's response to the freight-related findings of the Commission. This will begin the dialogue on what our regional corridors would like to see with respect to freight in the coming reauthorization. The agenda will be detailed more fully once the findings have been reviewed.

**Work Next Quarter:**

- MVFC Projects
  - Work will continue on these projects and will be reported in accompanying quarterly reports.
- Website
  - Will continue to update the MVFC website as needed, which will also include a section on the navigation bar for quarterly progress reports.
- Coalition Action Plan
  - Will continue to carry out activities of the Coalition Action Plan.
- Annual Joint Meeting of All Committees
  - Will continue planning for 2008 meeting.
- Committee Meetings
  - Will continue to meet with all committees via teleconference as needed.

**Circumstances affecting progress/budget:**

- None. The work of the Coalition is on time and budget.

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<b>Program: SPR-0010(36) FFY99</b>	<b>Part: II Research and Development</b>
<b>Project Title:</b> 2007 Regional Freight Workshop and Meetings	<b>Project ID:</b> MVFC 01
<b>Administrative Contact:</b> Jason Bittner	<b>Sponsor:</b> MVFC Pooled Fund
<b>WisDOT Technical Contact:</b> Sandy Beaupre	<b>Approved Starting Date:</b> 2/1/2007
<b>Approved by COR/Steering Committee:</b> \$57,500	<b>Approved Ending Date:</b> 10/31/2007
<b>Project Investigator (agency &amp; contact):</b> Teresa Adams, UW-Madison	

**Description:**

1. Identify Workshop data and location.
2. Develop an agenda
3. Put together white papers and other reading materials
4. Coordinate presentations
5. Hold Workshop

Total study budget	Expenditures for current quarter	Total Expenditures to date	Percent Complete
<b>\$57,500</b>	<b>\$7,965.85</b>	<b>\$45,173.43</b>	<b>95%</b>

**Progress This Quarter:**

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

Continuing to use outcomes of 2007 workshop and meetings as a foundation for discussions and analysis of topics for the 2008 workshop's agenda.

**Work Next Quarter:**

Will continue to fully develop/analyze 2007 workshop outcomes as we prepare for the 2008 workshop in Indianapolis on March 31 to April 2.

**Circumstances affecting progress/budget:**

None

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<b>Program: SPR-0010(36) FFY99</b>	<b>Part: II Research and Development</b>
<b>Project Title:</b> Logistics for the Public Sector Training Course	<b>Project ID:</b> MVFC 02
<b>Administrative Contact:</b> Jason Bittner	<b>Sponsor:</b> MVFC Pooled Fund
<b>WisDOT Technical Contact:</b> Sandy Beaupre	<b>Approved Starting Date:</b> 3/1/2007
<b>Approved by COR/Steering Committee:</b>	<b>Approved Ending Date:</b> 6/30/2008
<b>Project Investigator (agency &amp; contact):</b> T. Adams/X. Wang, UW-Madison	

**Description:**

1. Literature review
2. Conduct survey of select state DOT and MPO staff to determine level of logistics knowledge.
3. Develop focus and format for the class
4. Develop course materials
5. Offer course as a dry run
6. Finalize course
7. Offer final course materials and post to the web

Total Study Budget	Expenditures for Current Quarter	Total Expenditures to Date	Percent Complete
<b>\$36,500</b>	<b>\$5,541</b>	<b>\$30,318</b>	<b>85%</b>

**Progress This Quarter:**

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

The project has been on schedule. The team has drafted lecture notes and narrated power point presentations. Four interviews have been conducted. Video clips are planned to insert into the online course offering.

**Work Next Quarter:**

The video clips are being edited. Within the first quarter of 2008, the course will be fully developed and finalized. Online modules will be offered. One or two additional interviewed is being considered to conduct to enrich the course materials.

**Circumstances affecting progress/budget:**

N/A.

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<b>Program: SPR-0010(36) FFY99</b>	<b>Part: II Research and Development</b>
<b>Project Title:</b> Model Planning Approaches for Freight	<b>Project ID:</b> MVFC 03
<b>Administrative Contact:</b> Jason Bittner	<b>Sponsor:</b> MVFCPooledFund
<b>WisDOT Technical Contact:</b> Sandy Beaupre	<b>Approved Starting Date:</b> 3/1/2007
<b>Approved by COR/Steering Committee:</b> \$43,000	<b>Approved Ending Date:</b> 6/30/2008
<b>Project Investigator (agency &amp; contact):</b> Jessica Guo, University of Wisconsin - Madison	

**Description:**

1. Review and summarize federal guidance and requirements on freight planning at the state and MPO levels.
2. Review existing publications on successful practices of freight planning within MPOs and state agencies.
3. Develop and audio Power Point presentation on the federal guidance and requirements for freight planning.
4. Develop interview questions and an online questionnaire.
5. Conduct telephone interviews and execute the online survey.
6. Create a document summarizing the findings of the interviews and online survey.
7. Develop Power Point presentations based on the findings of the online survey and interviews.
8. Based on the outcomes of tasks 2 and 6, identify four organizations that have been most successful in addressing the freight planning challenges faced by the planning agencies in the MVFC region, prepare questions for face-to-face interviews, and then conduct on-site interviews.
9. Develop a guidebook to describe current practices among the MVC agencies and recommend effective freight planning tools and strategies for state DOTs and MPOs.
10. Develop audio Power Point presentations that provide an overview of the guidebook.

Total study budget	Expenditures for current quarter	Total Expenditures to date	Percent Complete
\$43,000	\$2,965	\$15,983	85%

**Progress This Quarter:**

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

The research team has completed the uni- and multi-variate statistical analysis of the interview/survey responses. Results from the small MPOs were compared to those from the large MPOS to examine significant differences in practices due to MPO size difference. The results from DOTs were separately analyzed. All analysis results were documented and discussed in a written report (task 6). The findings have also been included in a Power Point presentation given at the National Urban Freight Conference on December 5<sup>th</sup> (task 7).

**Work Next Quarter:**

- To wrap up on-site interviews (Task 8).
- To complete the freight planning guidebook (Task 9).
- To being preparing the Power Point presentation on Guidebook (Task 10).

**Circumstances affecting progress/budget:**

**Gantt Chart:**

Task/Month	2007												2008			
	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	
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			
10. Prepare audio PowerPoint on guidebook													X	X	X	

X – completed

X – to be completed / continued

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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> \$91,690	<b>Approved Ending Date:</b> June 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
\$91,690	0	0	12%

**Progress This Quarter:**

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

The research team has reviewed the FHWA-sponsored study of highway freight bottlenecks and the Intermodal Bottleneck Evaluation Tool developed by BTS publications. A broad literature scan of existing studies on freight bottleneck analysis and ranking methodologies was also conducted and summarized (task 1). A list of major stakeholders and a draft questionnaire are being compiled in preparation for the interviews (task 2). The research team has also investigated the hardware and software resources needed for developing the web-based DSS (task 6).

**Work Next Quarter:**

- Complete task 2: Finish interviewing stakeholders.
- Continue task 3: Identify potential freight bottlenecks and develop an analysis framework.
- Begin task 4: Collect and compile data.
- Continue task 6: Develop a web-based DSS for reviewing and adjusting bottleneck rankings.

**Circumstances affecting progress/budget:**

The research team reassessed the workplan and proposed a revised timeline based on two considerations. First, in order to ensure the quality of interviews with stakeholders, additional time is needed for task 2 to design, develop and test the interview instrument before the actual deployment. Second, as task 6 does not depend on the output of earlier tasks, it is feasible and desired to make an earlier start on the task than originally planned. The revised timeline is presented on the following page. Note that the adjustments made to the timeline do not affect the delivery dates of project products.

