# North/West Passage Pooled Fund Study

TPF-5(190)

# Work Plan 7



**FINAL** 

August 14, 2012



# **Background**

Interstates 90 and 94 between Wisconsin and Washington function as major corridors for commercial and recreational travel. Extreme winter weather conditions, prevalent in the northern states within this corridor, pose significant operational and travel-related challenges. Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming are predominantly rural and face similar transportation issues related to traffic management, traveler information, and commercial vehicle operations.

Recognizing the value of coordinated, cross-border collaboration for ITS deployment to address these issues, Minnesota initiated a meeting in 2002 with representatives from each of the states within the corridor. The group established itself as a Transportation Pooled Fund (TPF-5(093)) in 2003 through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The TPF number was then changed to TPF-5 (190) when FHWA transitioned to a new reporting system.

The vision of the North/West Passage Corridor is to focus on developing effective methods for sharing, coordinating, and integrating traveler information and operational activities across state and provincial borders.

The North/West Passage Corridor has developed an ITS Integrated Strategic Plan and has successfully implemented five work plans containing 24 projects including development of a corridor-wide traveler information website (<a href="www.i90i94travelinfo.com">www.i90i94travelinfo.com</a>). Currently the group is completing its sixth work plan consisting of 7 projects. Complete details on previous work plans and individual projects are available through the program web site at <a href="www.nwpassage.info">www.nwpassage.info</a>.

At the Opening Session of the 2010 National Rural ITS Conference, the North/West Passage Program was recognized as the winner of the 2010 Best of ITS Rural Award. The Best of ITS Rural Awards is the only program in the world that recognizes the best and brightest of the rural ITS community.

## **Accomplishments**

Since 2001 accomplishments of the corridor include:

- North and South Dakota 511 callers can select to receive information on Minnesota's highways.
- Creation of the program website.
- Development of one proposal to hire a contractor to perform work in two bordering states.
- Completion of a Strategic Plan to guide the future of the corridor.
- Each state uses their own phrases to describe road events. The NWP defined and agreed upon a set of consistent event description phrases to use across the I-90 and I-94 corridor.
- Created a website to provide traveler information for the corridor.
- Provided a forum for state patrol/police and DOT staff to discuss integration of systems.
- Held a workshop to create action plans for increased cross-border operation and maintenance collaboration.

- Participated in the USDOT Clarus initiative which demonstrated an integrated surface
  transportation weather observing, forecasting, and data management system. The result of the
  project was an example of all NWP states working together to develop a corridor Concept of
  Operations document.
- Summarized recommendations to advance the ability of travelers to access information about adjacent states traveler information.
- Identified what would be the options (and related costs) should the NWP member states decide to move towards regional permitting.
- Identified recommendations to enhance existing and corridor-wide trucker traveler information dissemination systems.
- Shared the details of Wyoming's Enhanced Citizen-Assisted Reporting (ECAR) program with other states for expansion to additional NWP States.
- Signed a corridor-wide Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation and coordination of traveler information among the states. A web page was also created to map out the traveler information tools along the corridor.
- Develop a Benefit/Cost Tool for ITS devices most commonly used in rural applications.
- Facilitated a workshop to present background on open source software, allow discussion of perceived barriers, and present and example of open source software success.

# **Financial Status**

There have been previous solicitations for funding associated with North/West Passage. Solicitation 1 in 2003 generated \$200,000 from the states of Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin. In 2006, the Solicitation 2 generated funding from all eight states totaling \$425,000. In 2008, Solicitation 3 was issued to fund Work Plan 4. In the third solicitation \$200,000 was generated by contributions from all eight states. A fourth solicitation in January 2010 to support Work Plan 5 generated \$175,000. In January 2011 a fifth solicitation generated \$175,000 for Work Plan 6. In January 2012 a seventh solicitation was conducted to solicit funds for Work Plan 7.

# **Projects**

At the May 16 and 17, 2012 North/West Passage Annual Meeting in Custer, South Dakota the states reviewed the North/West Passage goals, objectives and projects completed to-date in order to gauge interest in continuing to work as a pooled fund. The states all agreed that goals are being met and the work being done is of value to warrant continuation of the pooled fund. A list of prospective projects for Work Plan 7 was then developed over several months. The prospective projects were based on member suggestions and the Strategic Plan. These projects were scored at the Annual Meeting based on anticipated benefits to the corridor, likelihood of success, compatibility with vision and ConOps, and timeliness of the project.

The voting results, along with planning level cost estimates are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Voting Results for Work Plan 7 Projects

Project Name	Estimated Project Costs	Estimated Cumulative Costs	Total Points Voted	Rank by Points
NWP Goal Assessment and Planning for ITS Corridor Deployment	\$20,000	\$20,000	694	1
Corridor-Wide Traveler Information Coordination Operational Test: Phase 2	\$40,000	\$60,000	690	2
Truck Parking Projects along the NWP Corridor and Evaluate Third Party Data for Truck Parking Availability	\$45,000	\$105,000	684	3
Regional Permitting Phase 4	\$25,000	\$130,000	665	4
NWP Freight Industry Workshop	\$25,000	\$155,000	664	5
Multistate Coalition Coordination	\$15,000	\$170,000	657	6
ITS Training and Education for DOT Staff	\$40,000	\$210,000	649	7
Canada/NWP Cross Border Traveler Information Coordination	\$25,000	\$235,000	637	8
Bluetooth Test Bed of Corridor Travel Times	\$50,000	\$285,000	620	9
Next Generation of Traveler Information Services and Products	\$20,000	\$305,000	618	10
Concept of Operations for Connected Vehicle along a Rural Corridor	\$35,000	\$340,000	579	11
Procure and Integrate Third Party Data for NWP Corridor  — Traveler Information	\$25,000	\$365,000	571	12
Rest Areas - Increasing Efficency and Effectiveness	\$25,000	\$390,000	551	13

After discussing the voting results the states agreed to pursue as many of the projects listed in Table 2 as could be accomplished with available funding. Full project details are included at the end of this work plan.

Several other expenses are estimated in addition to the projects. Program administration support is as an overarching contractor task to support the Program Administrator with meeting preparations, writing conference papers, preparing presentations, etc. The states are also planning their annual meeting in the coming year and the estimated cost consists of associated travel expenses.

Table 2: Work Plan 7 Funding Plan

Expense	<b>Estimated Costs</b>	
Project Cost		
Project 7.1: NWP Goal Assessment and Planning for ITS	\$35,000*	
Corridor Deployment**		
Project 7.2: Corridor-Wide Traveler Information Coordination	\$40,000	
Operational Test: Phase 2		
Project 7.3: Truck Parking Projects along the NWP Corridor	\$30,000*	
and Evaluate Third Party Data for Truck Parking Availability		
Project 7.4: CVO Regional Permitting Phase 4	\$25,000	
Project 7.5: NWP Freight Industry Workshop**	\$25,000	
Project 7.6: Multistate Coalition Coordination	\$15,000	
Total Work Plan 7 Cost	\$ 170,000	
Administrative Cost	,	
Program Administration Support	\$ 30,000	
Program Website Maintenance ( <u>www.nwpassage.info</u> )	\$ 5,000	
Member Travel Support (one in person meeting)	\$ 10,000	
Total Administrative Cost	\$ 45,000	
Revenue		Estimated
The vertice of the ve		Revenue
Carryover Balance from Previous Work Plan		\$ 22,447
State Contributions ( 7 states@ \$25,000/state, 1 state@ \$35,000)		\$ 210,000
Total (Revenue vs. Expenses)	\$ 215,000	\$ 232,447

<sup>\*</sup> As the detailed project scope was developed for Project 7.1 was increased from \$20,000 to \$35,000 and the total cost of Project 7.3 was reduced from \$45,000 to \$30,000.

The states will be directly involved with finalizing contractor cost estimates, scopes of work and schedules for each of the projects to ensure concurrence with the final mix of projects contracted for Work Plan 7.

The details of projects 7.1 - 7.6 are included on the following pages. For each project, a title, description, and recommended champion is provided, in addition to a prospective approach. Also

<sup>\*\*</sup> North/West Passage submitted a proposal at the beginning of 2012 to FHWA for funding from the Multi-State Corridor Operations Management (MCOM) Program and received notification in August 2012 that North/West Passage was selected as one of the proposals that were funded. North/West Passage will have to match a portion of the funds and these projects may serve as match to the program. A final determination of projects that can serve as a match will be made in the Fall of 2012.

provided are planning level cost estimates. This planning level information was used as the basis to develop this work plan and will be used to arrange contractor services to execute the individual projects.

Project Title	7.1: NWP Goal Assessment and Planning for ITS Corridor Deployment
Project Champion	Cory Johnson, Minnesota DOT
Project Purpose	<ol> <li>This project has three goals:</li> <li>To identify how North/West Passage projects meet the corridor's vision, goals and objectives and identify gaps.</li> <li>Summarize how each North/West Passage state plans and prioritizes ITS deployments along the I-90 and I-94 Corridor.</li> <li>Assess existing ITS deployments for potential gaps that could lead to future deployments.</li> </ol>
Budget	\$35,000
Background / Current Status	The North/West Passage completed an ITS Integrated Corridor Strategic Plan in July 2007. The plan included the corridor's vision, goals and objectives. Also, included in the Strategic Plan are maps of ITS device locations throughout the I-90 and I-94 corridor (RWIS, DMS portable and permanent, CCTV, sensors, Weigh in Motion (WIM) Station, HAR, Rest Area Kiosks, Regional TOC/TMC, VSL Signs, and Automated Gate Closure). Project 5.3 completed in 2011 developed a Google map with updated location information for DMS, HAR, traveler information services and TMC/TOC contacts along the corridor.  This project will focus on validating corridor goals, assessing how previous projects have contributed to those goals, and identifying potential gaps in existing deployments in relation to the goals. As part of this project, research will be done on how each North/West Passage state plans and prioritizes ITS deployments along the corridor. States will also be asked if and how they reference the Strategic Plan in their overall planning efforts.  The potential gaps identified through this process may then lead to more detailed evaluation and preliminary engineering of specific deployments of DMS, HAR, RWIS, etc. This effort would also involve use of the Benefit/Cost Analysis tool developed for North/West Passage, as well as previous research into commercial vehicle operator preferences in the corridor.  In addition to the Strategic Plan, the North/West Passage member states have completed a number of projects that Project 7.1 will build upon.  Project 1.5 Concept of Operations for DMS Deployment on I-94 EB in North Dakota and Westbound in Minnesota completed in 2006 to provide North Dakota and Minnesota a reference as North Dakota and Minnesota developed system requirements, design and deployment plans for DMS on each side of the border.  In 2008 a corridor-wide North/West Passage traveler information

Project Title	7.1: NWP Goal Assessment and Planning for ITS Corridor Deployment	
	website was launched. The website includes links to camera location and images along the corridor.	
	<ul> <li>Project 5.3: Consistent and Coordinated Traveler Information completed in 2011 by the North/West Passage group included the development of a Google map of device locations (DMS, HAR, and Regional TOC/TMC). The intent of the map is to provide agency staff along the corridor with bordering states device locations to assist in managing major events that require cross border coordination.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Project 6.1: Corridor-Wide Traveler Information Coordination –         Operational Test will conclude in 2012 and it will offer insight on how         the tools developed for coordination are used by the North/West         Passage states.</li> </ul>	

# **Approach**

# Task 1: Project Management

The selected consultant will work closely with the North/West Passage project champion throughout the course of the project to ensure that all expectations are met.

The consultant will work with the project champion to schedule project meetings/ conference calls, if needed outside of the monthly Steering Committee calls. Work from the consultant will include providing notification of meetings, developing and distributing agendas and other meeting materials, and summarizing discussions at meetings.

The selected consultant will provide monthly project and budget updates.

#### Task 1 Deliverables:

- Monthly project and budget updates
- Overall project management

Task 2: Assess corridor goals and projects and conduct a high level inventory of ITS devices to identify potential gaps

The selected consultant will review the corridor vision, goals and objectives. Each year during the North/West Passage Annual Steering Committee meeting the members review the corridor vision, goals and objectives. The member states will be asked in this task to verify the vision, goals and objectives. The selected consultant will revise and document the corridor's vision, goals, and objectives as necessary.

Once the Steering Committee approves any changes to the corridor goals, vision and objectives the selected consultant will review all projects completed to date by the North/West Passage Corridor

#### 7.1: NWP Goal Assessment and Planning for ITS Corridor Deployment

and assess how each project completed by the North/West Passage members have contributed to the focus of the corridor. The assessment will also document any gaps that exist in meeting the identified corridor goals, vision, and objectives for consideration for future work plan development.

The selected consultant will build upon the previous inventory efforts completed by the North/West Passage members and update the ITS inventory for selected ITS devices throughout the corridor as determined by the Steering Committee. This effort will be similar in detail to the Googlemap that was developed for Project 5.3 that provided locations of DMS, HAR, traveler information services and TMC/TOC contacts along the I-90 and I-94 corridor. The inventory will also include planned ITS corridor deployments as they are identified. The purpose of the inventory will be to identify any ITS device gaps in location along the corridor.

#### Task 2 Deliverables:

- Updated North/West Passage Vision, Goals and Objectives
- Summary Assessment Document
- North/West Passage Corridor Inventory for selected ITS devices in Googlemap format

Task 3: Research how each North/West Passage state plans and prioritizes ITS deployments along the corridor

The selected consultant will contact each North/West Passage state to gather information on how ITS deployments along the I-90 and I-94 are planned and prioritized. States will also be asked if they use the Strategic Plan and to share lessons learned from ITS deployments near state borders. The information gathered will be documented and a set of recommendations for coordinating future corridor-wide deployments will be developed.

#### Task 3 Deliverables:

Summary Planning Document

#### Task 4: Develop project concepts for future corridor ITS deployments

In Tasks 2-3, the consultant will gather and assess information on corridor goals, projects and states' ITS planning processes and gaps in device locations along the corridor. Based on this information, the consultant will develop project concepts for future corridor ITS deployments. The concepts will address gaps identified in the consultant's assessment and will consist of a potential champion and participants, purpose statement, current status, suggested approach and deliverables, anticipated costs, and estimated duration/timing.

#### Task 4 Deliverables:

Project concepts

Task 5: Use the North/West Passage benefit/cost tool to assess ITS devices that may be deployed in the

# 7.1: NWP Goal Assessment and Planning for ITS Corridor Deployment

# project concepts

At the completion of Task 4, the consultant will identify a list of project concepts recommended for future corridor deployment (e.g. DMS deployment near I-90/I-94 split in Billings, MT, additional snow gates throughout the corridor) based on the efforts in Tasks 2-4. The consultant will then use the North/West Passage Benefit/Cost Tool to evaluate ITS devices that may be deployed in the project concepts. Note: Not all ITS devices are included in the Benefit/Cost Spreadsheet Tool. A summary of the collective ITS device deployments from the project concepts and results of the benefit/cost evaluation will be documented.

#### Task 5 Deliverables:

• Summary of ITS device deployments and benefit/cost evaluation

# Task 6: Final Report

In Task 6 the consultant will create a draft report summarizing the efforts of all project tasks for review and input by the Steering Committee and Project Champion. The consultant will incorporate all comments into a final report.

#### Task 6 Deliverables:

• Draft and Final Report

Project Title	7.2: Corridor-Wide Traveler Information Coordination – Operational Test: Phase 2	
Project Champion	Bill Legg, Washington State DOT	
Project Purpose	<ul> <li>The goals of this project are:</li> <li>To determine the threshold of when multi-state coordination is needed for planned and unplanned events along the corridor</li> <li>Expand the roadwork map display website developed by the Great Lakes Regional Transportation Operations Coalition (GLRTOC) to include the North/West Passage states</li> <li>Extend evaluation of coordination during major events</li> </ul>	
Budget	\$40,000	
Background / Current Status	NWP is currently completing the first phase of this effort. Several NWP projects have developed guidelines for consistent traveler information reporting (e.g. Project 5.3: Consistent and Coordinated Dynamic Message Sign (DMS) Use Workshop, and Project 3.1 Corridor-Wide Consistent Major Event Descriptions). Phase 1 is evaluating the use and effectiveness of these guidelines during actual major events that occur along the NWP Corridor. The project is leveraging existing systems in place (DMS, 511 phone & web, corridor wide ATIS site).  The Great Lakes Regional Transportation Operations Coalition (GLRTOC) has developed an online map display of major roadwork events to assist in coordination across borders and throughout individual states. The map displays current and future roadwork.  Phase 2 will build off of the results of the preliminary After Action Report/Improvement Plan completed in Phase 1. It will also determine and test the threshold of when coordination between states is needed and continue to evaluate the use of the North/West Passage traveler information coordination tools. Phase 2 will also expand the GLRTOC major road event online map to include the North/West Passage states major roadwork event information.	
Approach		

# Task 1: Project Management

The selected consultant will work closely with the North/West Passage project champion throughout the course of the project to ensure that all expectations are met.

The consultant will work with the project champion to schedule project meetings/ conference calls,

# 7.2: Corridor-Wide Traveler Information Coordination – Operational Test: Phase 2

if needed outside of the monthly Steering Committee calls. Efforts from the consultant include providing notification of meetings, developing and distributing agendas and other meeting materials, and summarizing discussions at meetings.

The selected consultant will provide monthly project and budget updates.

#### Task 1 Deliverables:

- Monthly project and budget updates
- Overall project management

Task 2: Replicate the roadwork map display website developed by the Great Lakes Regional Transportation Operations Coalition (GLRTOC) to cover the North/West Passage states.

The selected consultant will work with GLRTOC to replicate the online roadwork map display to cover the I-90 and I-94 corridors across the North/West Passage states. The application will include an upload utility for agencies to add, delete, or modify their high impact work zone and special event information at any time. The consultant will provide training and support to agencies on this process.

Based on the upcoming high impact work zones or special events, the consultant will facilitate an annual roundtable coordination review each spring. The application remains live so agencies can monitor upcoming work zones and events and coordinate with neighboring states on activities that they should be aware of.

The consultant will host the application on a subdomain (e.g., map.nwpassage.info), North/West Passage will direct their website host/registrar (currently DreamHost Web Hosting) to direct subdomain traffic to a host IP provided by the consultant, and the consultant will provide a link to be placed on the North/West Passage TMC/TOC Operations Coordination web page that was developed during Phase 1 of this project for operators to use as a resource when planning high impact work zones and managing special events.

#### Task 2 Deliverables:

- Replicate GLRTOC roadwork construction map and upload utility
- Provide application hosting and maintenance
- Support agency input of work zone and event information into the map
- Facilitate coordination review in Spring 2013

Task 3: Identify and test thresholds of when coordination between states is needed and evaluate use of North/West Passage coordination tools

The selected consultant will review the preliminary After Action Report/Improvement Plans

# Project Title 7.2: Corridor-Wide Traveler Information Coordination – Operational Test: Phase 2

developed during Phase 1 to identify thresholds of when coordination between states is needed. The consultant will then test the thresholds during a winter season to further evaluate the use of the North/West Passage traveler information coordination tools (including the map display developed in Task 2). The consultant will follow the evaluation process used during Phase 1.

#### Task 3 Deliverables:

- Summary of Thresholds for North/West Passage Coordination
- Maintain and distribute event evaluation guides
- Event summaries

## Task 4: Final After Action Report/Improvement Plan

In Task 4 the consultant will finalize the After Action Report/Improvement Plan summarizing the efforts of all project tasks for review and input by the Steering Committee and Project Champion. The consultant will incorporate all comments into a final document.

#### Task 4 Deliverables:

• Draft and Final After Action Report/Improvement Plan

Project Title	7.3: Truck Parking Projects along NWP Corridor and Evaluate Third Party Data for Truck Parking Availability
Project Champion	Bill Legg, Washington State DOT
Project Purpose	<ul> <li>The goals of this project are:</li> <li>To summarize the findings from other projects designed to identify the overall issues of truck parking along the corridor, identify the gaps, and recommend truck parking solutions for the corridor</li> <li>Explore if and how third party data could be used to indicate truck parking availability</li> </ul>
Budget	\$30,000
	For at least the past decade, truck driver fatigue has been thought to be a contributing factor in a number of heavy truck accidents. This project will summarize the work of other projects that have identified the issues of truck parking in each North/West Passage state, identified the gaps of truck parking and then recommended truck parking solutions for the corridor.
	For better utilization of truck stops and to provide truck drivers with safe rest options, real-time notification about the availability of parking spots is one need that has frequently been cited as an issue. Currently the University of Minnesota has designed an automated truck stop management system that can compute occupancy rates at stops and notify drivers about the availability using DMS located 30 to 40 miles before the stop.
Background / Current Status	This project would focus on another option for providing real-time truck parking information by using third party data.
	This project will conduct preliminary research to explore the feasibility. The selected consultant would work with third party data providers to explore the concept and feasibility. Options to be explored may include:
	<ul> <li>Whether commercial probe vehicles can provide any predictions of the number of commercial vehicles at truck stops (possibly to at least alert when a stop is full, possibly not to indicate if spaces are available);</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Whether blue tooth readers and algorithms could estimate vehicles that have exited and not re-entered at selected exits with limited services outside the truck stops.</li> </ul>
Approach	<u>I</u>
Task 1: Project Manager	ment

# 7.3: Truck Parking Projects along NWP Corridor and Evaluate Third Party Data for Truck Parking Availability

The selected consultant will work closely with the North/West Passage project champion throughout the course of the project to ensure that all expectations are met.

The consultant will work with the project champion to schedule project meetings/ conference calls, if needed outside of the monthly Steering Committee calls. Efforts from the consultant include providing notification of meetings, developing and distributing agendas and other meeting materials, and summarizing discussions at meetings.

The selected consultant will provide monthly project and budget updates.

#### Task 1 Deliverables:

- Monthly project and budget updates
- Overall project management

#### Task 2: Literature Review of Funded Trucking Parking Projects

The selected consultant will conduct a literature review on truck parking projects that have been funded along the corridor. The consultant will summarize the literature review.

#### Task 2 Deliverables:

Literature Review Summary

#### Task 3: Evaluate Third Party Data for Truck Parking Availability

The selected consultant will prepare a Request for Information document for distribution to third party data providers (probe and infrastructure based) to discuss the feasibility of using data collected to provide real-time truck parking availability. A summary of the findings will be documented by the consultant to provide North/West Passage members with enough detail to consider an operational test.

#### Task 3 Deliverables:

Summary of third party data provider request for information

#### Task 4: Final Report

In Task 4 the consultant will create a draft report summarizing the efforts of all project tasks for review and input by the Steering Committee and Project Champion. The consultant will incorporate all comments into a final report.

#### Task 4 Deliverables:

Draft and Final Report

Project Title	7.4: CVO – Regional Permitting Phase 4	
Project Champion	Jim Wright, Washington State DOT	
	The goals of this project are:	
Project Purpose	<ul> <li>To continue the coordination of working towards permitting consistencies between states building off the recommendations from earlier phases.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>To research data collection sharing of weigh in motion stations</li> </ul>	
Budget	\$25,000	

## **Background / Current Status**

The first phase of this project was completed in April 2010. The final report is available at: http://www.nwpassage.info/projects/phase4/proj4/

The second phase of this project was completed in January 2012. The final report is available at: <a href="http://www.nwpassage.info/projects/phase5/?project=5.5">http://www.nwpassage.info/projects/phase5/?project=5.5</a>

Currently the North/West Passage states are working on Phase 3.

The focus of Phase 4 will be to build upon the efforts of the first three phases and bring recommendations and activities to completion.

Many of the NWP states operate weigh in motion sites along the corridor. Each site is operated by the individual state. In order to share information between sites, this project may also determine if coordinating information between weigh in motion sites is needed.

## **Approach**

TBD at the completion of Phase 3.

The weigh in motion data sharing portion of this project may included the following tasks:

Task 1: Identify the location of weigh in motion sites along the NWP corridor

Task 2: Identify gaps between weigh in motion sites and recommend weigh in motion locations of future deployments

Task 3: Contact each NWP state to discuss the details of each weigh in motion site (software used, coordination process through each individual state, etc.) and the benefits and drawback for coordinating weigh in motion sites across states borders

Task 4: Summarize Tasks 1- 3 and list what would be needed to coordinate weigh in motion sites along the corridor

Project Title	7.5: North/West Passage Freight Industry Outreach
Project Champion	Vince Garcia, Wyoming DOT
Project Purpose	The goals of this project is to open a dialogue with the North/West Passage Corridor Freight Community
Budget	\$25,000

## **Background / Current Status**

The freight and commercial vehicle community is an important stakeholder to the North/West Passage corridor. USDOT already labels portions of the I-90/I-94 corridor in Washington, Minnesota and Wisconsin as major for freight movement. By 2040, USDOT predicts most of the corridor will be a major truck route (≥8,500 AADTT) on the National Highway System. Further illustrating the significance of freight movement in the states, Washington recently issued a report, "The Impact of Truck Congestion on Washington State's Economy," that analyzes answers from freight-dependent businesses regarding what a 20 percent increase in congestion would do to their economic well-being. According to the results, this congestion would cost the state more than 27,500 jobs and \$3.3 billion in economic output.

In addition to the North/West Passage interests, there are number of other corridor coalitions focused on enhancing freight movement throughout the country. Some have successfully engaged the freight and commercial vehicle industry in their efforts. FHWA and the I-95 Corridor Coalition recently released a report, "Moving the Nation's Goods," that examines institutional arrangements to improve the performance of multistate freight corridors. In that report, voluntary coalitions like the North/West Passage can offer flexibility in formation and governance but their financing and authority could be problematic.

## **Approach**

#### Task 1: Project Management

The selected consultant will work closely with the North/West Passage project champion throughout the course of the project to ensure that all expectations are met.

The consultant will work with the project champion to schedule project meetings/ conference calls, if needed outside of the monthly Steering Committee calls. Efforts from the consultant include providing notification of meetings, developing and distributing agendas and other meeting materials, and summarizing discussions at meetings.

The selected consultant will provide monthly project and budget updates.

#### Task 1 Deliverables:

- Monthly project and budget updates
- Overall project management

## Task 2: Research Scheduled Trucking Workshops/Meetings

The selected consultant will identify freight and commercial vehicle companies along the I-90 and I-

#### 7.5: North/West Passage Freight Industry Outreach

94 corridor with input from the Steering Committee and the project team from Project 6.6: CVO Regional Permitting Phase 3. The consultant will identify workshops/meetings that are currently scheduled with the companies to identify opportunities to conduct outreach. The consultant will document the scheduled meeting and work with the meeting planners to determine the feasibility of presenting at a meeting.

#### Task 2 Deliverables:

- Freight and Commercial Vehicle Companies Contact List
- List of Scheduled Freight and Commercial Vehicle Workshops/Meetings
- Summary of NWP Potential in Presenting during a scheduled Workshop/Meeting

#### Task 3: Plan and Develop Workshop/Meeting Materials

Based on the results of Task 2 the North/West Passage will present at an already scheduled workshop/meeting being held by the trucking industry. The selected consultant will develop a presentation and handouts focused on educating the attendees of the North/West Passage efforts as well as gather feedback from the trucking industry on how the North/West Passage could help their efforts.

If there is not an opportunity to join a scheduled meeting or workshop the consultant will plan a workshop. The consultant will develop a workshop invite list and arrange logistics the in person workshop. The consultant will develop all workshop materials including agendas, presentations and handouts.

#### Task 3 Deliverables:

- Presentation and handouts
- Workshop Attendee List (if needed)
- Plan Workshop Logistics (if needed)
- Create Workshop Materials (if needed)

## Task 4: Conduct Workshop (if needed)

Based on the results of Task 2 the selected consultant will facilitate the workshop in order to effectively accomplish the goals of the project. A summary of the discussion at the workshop will be developed by the consultant including a list of action items and recommendations identified during the workshop.

#### Task 4 Deliverables:

Workshop Summary

#### Task 5: Final Report

In Task 5 the consultant will create a draft report summarizing the efforts of all project tasks for review and input by the Steering Committee and Project Champion. The consultant will incorporate all comments into a final report.

#### Task 5 Deliverables:

Project Title	7.5: North/West Passage Freight Industry Outreach
Draft and Final Report	

Project Title	7.6: Multistate Coalition Coordination
Project Champion	Angela Adams, Wisconsin DOT
Project Purpose	Several of the North/West Passage states are involved in other multistate coalition groups beyond I-90/I-94. Some are formal transportation pooled funds and others are informal, operationally oriented coalitions. The topics discussed by North/West Passage are sometimes of relevance and interest to these other groups and vice versa. The purpose of this project in the near-term is to facilitate coordination among the North/West Passage program and the Great Lakes Regional Transportation Operations Coalition.
Budget	\$15,000 (\$10,000 WisDOT travel expenses, \$5,000 North/West Passage member travel expenses)

#### **Background / Current Status**

Coordination with other coalitions has been an objective for North/West Passage since it was established as a transportation pooled fund in 2003. Coordination has tapered off in recent years, and this project presents an opportunity to reconnect with another coalition group focused on coordinating traveler information and operational activities across state and provincial borders.

#### Approach

The near-term objective of this project is to increase coordination efforts with the Great Lakes Regional Transportation Operations Coalition. This will be resourced by additional financial commitment from Wisconsin to North/West Passage.

The coordination approach will primarily consist of funding for Wisconsin member travel to attend inperson meetings of the Great Lakes Regional Transportation Operations Coalition. In addition to the \$10,000 being contributed by WisDOT, an additional \$5,000 of pooled funds are proposed to fund the travel of one or more North/West Passage members state representatives to attend in-person meetings of the Great Lakes Regional Transportation Coalition, in the event that a member has a specific interest in attending the meeting and/or both groups decide it would be beneficial towards encouraging coordination. Funds will be administered by MnDOT through the North/West Passage transportation pooled fund in accordance with Minnesota Department of Transportation Reimbursement Rates for Travel Expenses. Coordination may also include periodic email updates, telephone contact and webinar participation.