

State Planning and Research Program Quarterly Report

PROJECT TITLE: Using Vegetation Management Practices Near Roads to Leverage the Benefits of Solar Radiation

OBJECTIVES: Based on literature and field research, prepare a Vegetation Management Guide with recommendations regarding removal of roadside vegetation to benefit winter maintenance operations.

PERIOD COVERED: October 1 to December 31, 2025

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: Minnesota Department of Transportation, Clear Roads Technical Advisory Committee, and Bolton & Menk.

<p>PROJECT MANAGER: Hafiz Munir / Sheila Johnson</p> <p>LEAD AGENCY: MnDOT</p> <p>PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Carolyn Dindorf, Bolton & Menk</p>	<p>SP&R PROJECT NO: MnDOT Contract No. 1054113</p> <p>Federal Project Number: TPF-5(479)</p>	<p>PROJECT IS:</p> <p>____ Planning</p> <p><u> X </u> Research & Development</p>
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<p>ANNUAL BUDGET: \$31,250 FY3 estimated budget. Expect to spend all remaining budget.</p> <p>TOTAL BUDGET: \$123,085.93</p>	<p>PROJECT EXPENDITURES TO DATE: \$94,234.38 through 11/21/25. An invoice for \$11,912.11 for expenditures from 11/22/25 to 12/31/25 will be issued soon. This brings total expenditures through 12/31/25 to \$106,146.79.</p>
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WORK COMPLETED:

- Task 1. Project Management, Meetings, and Reporting
 - Held subcommittee meeting to review task 3 deliverable and draft Vegetation Management Guide and update on final report
 - Meetings with subcontractor (UMN)
 - Submitted quarterly report
- Task 3. Identify, Monitor, and Evaluate Vegetation Removal Sites
 - Refine calculator that models and summarizes shade coverage of roadways
 - Analyzed survey responses
 - UMN and Bolton & Menk completed the data analysis
 - Communicated with UMN project staff on data analysis and findings as needed
 - Prepared and submitted deliverable for task 3
 - Deliverable was approved at Subcommittee meeting
- Task 4. Create Vegetation Management Guide
 - Completed draft Vegetation Management Guide deliverable and submitted it for review
 - Guide was discussed and approved at Subcommittee meeting with addition of photos provided by Subcommittee members and final accessibility review/edits
- Task 5. Draft and Final Report, Webinar
 - Completed and submitted draft report

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES EXPECTED TO BE PERFORMED NEXT QUARTER:

- Task 1. Project Management, Meetings, and Reporting
 - Complete quarterly report
 - Budget and schedule management
 - Coordination with UMN
 - Hold meeting to discuss final report deliverable with Clear Roads subcommittee
- Task 4. Create Vegetation Management Guide
 - Finalize Vegetation Management Guide and make sure it is accessible.
 - Submit final version of Guide
- Task 5. Draft and Final Report, Webinar
 - Draft final report was submitted in previous quarter but will be reviewed in this quarter.
 - Edit report based on comments (final report due 1/31/26)
 - Complete presentation preparation and conduct webinar in January 2026

STATUS AND COMPLETION DATE:

The expected completion date is no later than January 31, 2026.