

**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.

<b>PROJECT MANAGER:</b> Hafiz Munir / Sheila Johnson	<b>SP&amp;R PROJECT NO:</b> MnDOT Contract No. 1054113  <b>LEAD AGENCY:</b> MnDOT  <b>PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:</b> Carolyn Dindorf, Bolton & Menk	<b>PROJECT IS:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research & Development
<b>ANNUAL BUDGET:</b> \$31,250 FY3 estimated budget. Expect to spend all remaining budget. <b>TOTAL BUDGET:</b> \$123,085.93	<b>PROJECT EXPENDITURES TO DATE:</b> \$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.	

**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.