

State Planning and Research Program Quarterly Report

PROJECT TITLE: *Cost-Benefit of Various Winter Maintenance Strategies*

OBJECTIVES: • Assess and communicate the costs and benefits of at least three winter maintenance strategies to understand the safest and most cost-effective approach based on the desired level of service (LOS)

PERIOD COVERED:

April 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES:

Western Transportation Institute, Montana State University – Prime
SRF Consulting Group, Inc.- Subcontractor

PROJECT MANAGER: Tom Peters

SP&R PROJECT NO:

PROJECT IS:

LEAD AGENCY: Mn/DOT

TPF-5(218)
MnDOT Contract No.
99006; WO 7

Planning
 Research & Development

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

Laura Fay

ANNUAL BUDGET:

\$121,730

PROJECT EXPENDITURES TO DATE:

\$101,500

WORK COMPLETED:

Project Management

Project management activities during the quarter including a change of Principle Investigator from David Veneziano to Laura Fay. Effort included budget and timeline maintenance. Due to extensive feedback and revisions during Task 2, the project required a no cost time extension, which has been granted through July 31, 2015. The project is on budget and time based on this revised end date.

Task 1. Review Existing Research (100% completed)

No work was completed on this task during the past quarter.

Task 2. Survey (100% completed)

Based on the results of Task 1 and informational gaps from existing research that were identified, the Technical Panel and researchers convened for a teleconference on January 28, 2015 to discuss next steps. During that call, it was decided that a second survey should be administered to solicit information specific to advanced materials and practices. That survey was distributed in late February (following an initial, short survey to obtain contact information from agencies). A total of 10 responses were obtained from that survey, and those responses did not fill in the data gaps that existed for advanced materials. In light of this, follow-up telephone interviews were conducted with approximately 20 contacts/agencies who provided information on the earlier survey indicating they use such materials. The interviews results were feed into Task 3.

Task 3. Analysis and Organization (99% completed)

The researchers made an initial analysis of the data from the survey of Task 2 based on the first and second surveys that were conducted. This led to the identification of information gaps that were addressed as much as is possible through follow-up telephone interviews. The draft matrix was submitted to the project panel on May 13, 2015, and meeting was held on June 2, 2015 to discuss the findings. Comments received from the project panel were addressed, the matrix was revised and reformatted and was submitted on July 17, 2015.

Task 4. Final Report (75% completed)

The researchers will prepare and submit a final report of the work completed, including an executive summary, introduction, methodology, results for each task, the cost and benefit matrix, and conclusions. All of information developed to date for this project has been incorporated into the Final Report.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES EXPECTED TO BE PERFORMED NEXT QUARTER:

Work in the coming quarter will consist of finishing the Task 4. Final Report.

STATUS AND COMPLETION DATE:

On time and on schedule. Completion date – July 31, 2015

