

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: April 1 to June 30, 2024

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

PROJECT MANAGER:

Hafiz Munir / Tom Peters

LEAD AGENCY: MnDOT

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

Carolyn Dindorf, Bolton & Menk

SP&R PROJECT NO:

MnDOT Contract No.
1054113

Federal Project Number:
TPF-5(479)

PROJECT IS:

☐ Planning

☒ Research & Development

ANNUAL BUDGET: \$37,868.71 FY1
estimated budget

PROJECT (estimated) EXPENDITURES TO DATE:
\$9,024.44

TOTAL BUDGET: \$123,085.93

WORK COMPLETED:

- Task 1. Project Management, Meetings, and Reporting
 - Meetings with subcontractor, submitted quarterly report
- Task 2. Literature Search
 - Complete draft literature review and submitted for TAC review
- Task 3. Identify, Monitor, and Evaluate Vegetation Removal Sites
 - Continued to evaluate monitoring equipment options and methods
 - Completed draft survey app to identify sites of completed or planned vegetation removal

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES EXPECTED TO BE PERFORMED NEXT QUARTER:

- Task 1. Project Management, Meetings, and Reporting
 - Complete second quarter report
 - Budget and schedule management
 - TAC meeting
- Task 2. Literature Search
 - Edit literature search based on TAC comments, finalize literature review
- Task 3. Identify, Monitor, and Evaluate Vegetation Removal Sites
 - Test draft survey app for vegetation removal site identification internally, submit for TAC review
 - Finalize equipment choice and purchase equipment. Purchase may occur in next quarter.
 - Conduct shading analysis to help identify MN test site
 - Identify test site and potential additional sites for desktop analysis

STATUS AND COMPLETION DATE:

A request was submitted to extend the time for completion of the literature review. All other tasks are on schedule. The expected completion date is no later than January 31, 2026.