

## 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, 2025

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

<b>PROJECT MANAGER:</b> Hafiz Munir / Tom Peters  <b>LEAD AGENCY:</b> MnDOT  <b>PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:</b> Carolyn Dindorf, Bolton & Menk	<b>SP&amp;R PROJECT NO:</b> MnDOT Contract No. 1054113  Federal Project Number: TPF-5(479)	<b>PROJECT IS:</b>  <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Planning  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research &amp; Development         </div>
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**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$37,868.71 FY2  
estimated budget

**TOTAL BUDGET:** \$123,085.93

**PROJECT EXPENDITURES TO DATE:** \$56,945.24

**WORK COMPLETED:**

- Task 1. Project Management, Meetings, and Reporting
  - Held subcommittee meeting to provide update on project progress and early results
  - Meetings with subcontractor (UMN)
  - Submitted quarterly report
  - Request amendment to move funds from equipment to other tasks
- Task 3. Identify, Monitor, and Evaluate Vegetation Removal Sites
  - Completed field site monitoring and removed equipment.
  - Conducted UAV survey of site
  - Worked with County maintenance staff to get their winter maintenance truck data.
  - Downloaded RWIS station data
  - Compiled data
  - Conducted analysis of data
  - Contacted those that responded to survey about additional data needs
  - Met with UMN project staff to discuss their analysis and preliminary results and what additional analysis is needed
- Task 4. Create Vegetation Management Guide
  - Completed draft outline, did some internal review
  - Met with project staff to discuss what to include in Guide
  - Reviewed some additional literature
  - Began work on Guide

**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
- Task 3. Identify, Monitor, and Evaluate Vegetation Removal Sites
  - Coordinate with UMN on continued data analysis
  - Collect additional data from survey respondents for desktop analysis
  - Determine how data can inform contents of Vegetation Management Guide
- Task 4. Create Vegetation Management Guide
  - Finalize outline for vegetation management guide
  - Continue to review literature sources for Guide content
  - Provide draft outline to Subcommittee
  - Continue work on draft Guide
- Task 5. Draft and Final Report, Webinar
  - Work on final report

**STATUS AND COMPLETION DATE:**

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