

State of Wisconsin/Department of Transportation
RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING: March 31, 2008

Program: SPR-0010(36) FFY99	Part: II Research and Development
Project Title: Assessment of Multimodal Freight Bottlenecks and Alleviation Strategies for the Upper Midwest Region	Project ID: MVFC 05
Administrative Contact: Jason Bittner	Sponsor: MVFC Pooled Fund
WisDOT Technical Contact: John Berg	Approved Starting Date: October 1, 2007
Approved by COR/Steering Committee: \$92,500	Approved Ending Date: June 30, 2009
Project Investigator (agency & contact): Jessica Guo, University of Wisconsin – Madison	

Description:

The project aims to develop a prioritized list of freight bottlenecks in the Mississippi Valley Region and to identify effective strategies for alleviating the bottlenecks. Specific tasks include:

1. Review existing studies on freight bottleneck analysis and ranking methodologies.
2. Interview major stakeholders to identify the locations and conditions of freight transportation bottlenecks.
3. Identify a list of potential freight bottlenecks in the region and develop an analysis framework for determining the relative rankings of bottlenecks.
4. Collect and compile existing data that describe the conditions of freight bottlenecks.
5. Develop preliminary rankings of freight bottlenecks across the different modes.
6. Develop a web-based DSS for reviewing and adjusting bottleneck rankings.
7. Deploy the web-based DSS to obtain the final bottleneck rankings.
8. Obtain information pertaining to the schedule and the nature of planned improvement projects in the MVFC region for addressing the bottlenecks.
9. Develop a list of recommendations regarding how to address regionally significant bottlenecks in a coordinated and effective manner.
10. Prepare the final report.

Total study budget	Expenditures for current quarter	Total Expenditures to date	Percent Complete
\$92,500			30%

Progress This Quarter:

(Includes project committee mtgs, work plan status, contract status, significant progress, etc.)

During this last reporting period, the research team has continued to work on tasks 2, 3, and 4.

Task 2: The decision was made to alter the research approach and conduct the survey of truck bottlenecks using an on-line interactive, map-based instrument. This approach has the merit of reaching out to more potential survey respondents and improving the quality of survey results. The development of this instrument, however, requires much more time than initially allowed for the task. A prototype of the instrument is now completed and being tested and refined. We anticipate deploying the survey at the end of April and collecting data throughout the month of May.

Task 3: The research team continues to develop the analysis methods for bottleneck prioritization. An inventory of bottlenecks identified by previous studies has been compiled. User nominated bottlenecks identified from Task 2 will be added to this inventory at the end of May.

Task 4: The research team began contacting various agencies to collect data that describe the conditions of the freight bottlenecks identified in Task 3.

Task 6: In parallel to Task 2, further progress has been made in data processing and computer coding that will contribute to the development of the web-based DSS.

