

State of Wisconsin/Department of Transportation
RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING: June 30, 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: Sandy Beaupre	Approved Starting Date: October 1, 2007
Approved by COR/Steering Committee: \$91,690	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
\$91,690			50%

Progress This Quarter:

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

Task 2: The web-based survey instrument has been developed, tested, and ready to go. The research team has also established contact with the Motor Carrier Associations in the MVFC states to ask for their assistance in distributing the survey request. The actual deployment of the survey is postponed until the survey from another MVFC project (truck parking) is near completion. The decision to stagger the surveys was supported by the CFIRE director and the intention is to avoid over-burden on our target respondents and result in worsening response rates. The staggering is being coordinated by the investigators of all the projects involved. The bottleneck survey is anticipated to go live later in July.

Task 3: The research team has drafted 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 have to be added to this inventory.

Task 4: The research team has contacted all 10 state DOTs to collect information pertaining freight bottlenecks in their state. We have received and reviewed most of the materials received and are waiting for a couple of states to forward additional information. However, the quality of information and data is very mixed across the states, requiring the research team to re-evaluate the analysis methods developed 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.

