

**State of Wisconsin/Department of Transportation**  
**RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING: Sep 30, 2008**

<b>Program: SPR-0010(36) FFY99</b>	<b>Part: II Research and Development</b>
<b>Project Title:</b> Assessment of Multimodal Freight Bottlenecks and Alleviation Strategies for the Upper Midwest Region	<b>Project ID:</b> MVFC 05
<b>Administrative Contact:</b> Jason Bittner	<b>Sponsor:</b> MVFC
<b>WisDOT Technical Contact:</b>	<b>Approved Starting Date:</b> October 1, 2007
<b>Approved by COR/Steering Committee:</b> \$92,500	<b>Approved Ending Date:</b> June 30, 2009
<b>Project Investigator (agency &amp; contact):</b> 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	\$7,718	\$23,955	60%

**Progress This Quarter:**

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

Task 2: The research team collected 100 responses through face-to-face interviews with truckers at three trucking events. The online survey has been open since August, 2008. However, few responses have been received. The research team has continued to seek opportunities for outreach reach to potential survey respondents.

Task 3: User nominated bottlenecks identified from Task 2 through both paper-based and online surveys have been entered and into the central database. Multiple bottleneck measurement and ranking methods have been reviewed to identify methods that are applicable to the available data.

Task 4: The research team continued to collect highway capacity, volume, and LOS data from member state DOTs. Additional Federal datasets, including the FAF, GeoGreight, and the HPMS universe and sample data have been examined. Also, data describing rails and ports in the region are being collected.

Task 5: Alternative analysis methods identified in Task 3 are being tested and applied to the available data.

Task 8: The research team continued to collect information from the MVFC states regarding congestion/bottleneck alleviation projects.

**Work Next Quarter:**

- Expand survey sample to obtain a satisfactory inventory of user nominated bottlenecks (tasks 2 & 3)

