

State of Wisconsin/Department of Transportation
RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING: December 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: Sandy Beaupre	Approved Starting Date: October 1, 2007
Approved by COR/Steering Committee: \$91,690	Approved Ending Date: March 31, 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	\$14,161	\$38,116	75%

Progress This Quarter:

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

Task 2: The research team continued to seek opportunities for outreach reach to potential survey respondents, but received few additional responses. Several rail and port operators have also been interviewed.

Task 3: Completed the implementation of a methodology that identifies the location and severity of four types of highway-mode bottlenecks. The methodology has also been applied to the ten state region to produce a ranked list of highway bottlenecks based on the latest HPMS and FAF data.

Task 4: The research team finished acquiring all data needed for characterizing the highway bottlenecks. Several datasets have also been collected for rail and port modes.

Task 5: The data available to date have not been sufficient to support ranking of bottlenecks across the different modes.

Task 6: A prototype of the web-based DSS has been developed and is undergoing functional testing.

Task 8: The research team has finished collecting information from the MVFC states regarding congestion/bottleneck alleviation projects. An inventory of projects has been set up accordingly in a database.

Task 10: The research team has begun documenting the research methodology and data sources.

