

State of Wisconsin/Department of Transportation
RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING: March 31, 2009

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: \$92,500	Approved Ending Date: Jun 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	\$20,162	\$58,278	87%

Progress This Quarter:

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

Provided progress update to TOC on March 5, 2009, and to MVTOC on March 4, 2009.

Task 2: The research team established contact and interviewed with a few more rail and port operators to obtain information regarding bottlenecks (the latest being the Union Pacific Rail about their CREATE projects and problem in Clinton, IA)

Task 3: Completed. The research team refined the analysis methodology developed in the last quarter based on the feedback provided by MVFC member DOT representatives.

Task 4: Additional information was collected for rail and port modes.

Task 5: Ranked list of highway bottlenecks is completed. Discussion with port and rail operators and DOT staff suggested that detailed data is not available (regarded as highly confidential) for the comprehensive analysis of regional rail and port bottlenecks. Therefore, as reported to the TOC on March 5, the ranked list of freight bottlenecks will focus on truck only. Data and information collected regarding specific rail and port bottlenecks will be presented as case studies.

Task 6: Implementation of the web-based DSS is completed and is undergoing final testing and fine tuning.

Task 8: Completed. All congestion/bottleneck alleviation projects reported by the MVFC states have been inventoried and geocoded.

