

## **TMC Pooled Fund Study – SPR 2 (207) Status Overview – March 2002**

The TMC Pooled Fund Study (PFS) currently has four projects in progress, one project Request For Proposal (RFP) outstanding (this project will be funded by FHWA, but will be managed as a PFS project), and two project RFPs to be released in the next 30 days. The four ongoing projects are listed below.

- Transportation Management Systems Maintenance Concepts and Plans
- TMC Operator Requirements Matrix
- Guidelines for Changeable Message Sign Messages
- Configuration Management for Transportation Management Systems

The four ongoing projects are at various levels of development. Status of each project is summarized below.

### **Transportation Management Systems Maintenance Concepts and Plans**

This project will develop a technical document that will address how to plan, develop, and support a maintenance program to meet the requirements of a TMC. Issues to be addressed include: (1) types of maintenance programs, (2) strategic plan and components, and (3) policies, necessary resources, services, and procedures. The project will also address how to integrate, consider, and evaluate the appropriate maintenance issues and life cycle needs throughout the planning, design, implementation, and continued evolution of a TMC.

#### Current Project Activities

- An annotated outline of the main deliverable (Technical Document) is due in early March, 2002.
- A first draft of the Technical Document is expected to be complete in time for presentation to the PFS membership in mid-May, 2002.

### **TMC Operator Requirements Matrix**

The goal of this project is to develop a matrix that relates operator knowledge, skill, and ability requirements to TMC functions. Because not all TMCs perform the same functions, the matrix will trace requirements to the potential tasks that operators may perform based on possible TMC functions. Agencies could use the matrix and other information developed by this project to determine and prepare job classifications, recruitment and training requirements, and define career paths for operators.

#### Current Project Activities

- The contractor will provide a briefing on the results of Task B, summarizing TMC operator tasks and functions in mid-March, 2002.
- The main project deliverable will be completed and findings will be presented at the PFS annual meeting in mid-May, 2002.

### **Guidelines for Changeable Message Sign Messages**

The focus of this project is to prepare documentation to support agencies in the development of policies, procedures, and practices to develop and display messages on CMS. The documentation is also intended identify the issues, form the basis, and provide recommendations for input into the appropriate national standards processes related to CMS (e.g., Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices).

#### Current Project Activities

- An annotated outline of the main deliverable (Technical Reference Document) is expected in mid-March, 2002.
- First draft of the Technical Reference Document is due in mid-May, 2002, for presentation at the annual membership meeting.

### **Configuration Management for Transportation Management Systems**

This study will document the range of issues and information to consider in developing, implementing, and integrating the appropriate configuration management (CM) policies, procedures, tools, and processes into the day-to-day activities of an agency. The project will develop a technical resource document that will provide guidance on how to develop a CM program and associated plan, control processes, job and/or position requirements, training, tools, accounting system, and how to apply these throughout the life cycle of a system. This project will also identify the potential CM issues to consider when integrating and sharing of information between multiple agencies and interests within a region or state.

#### Current Project Activities

- Two draft mock-ups of the main deliverable (Technical Reference Document) are due at the end of March 2002.
- First draft of the Technical Reference Document is due in September 2002.

### **PFS Financial Summary**

Current state commitments through 2002 total \$1,531,000. However, this amount does not include a number of states that have committed in the past. It is anticipated that these states' commitments (once received) will equal 2001 levels, bringing total state commitments through 2002 to \$1,661,000. Funding for the four ongoing projects and other PFS related expenses to date total approximately \$880,000. Cost of the two additional projects with RFPs currently under development is estimated at \$500,000, bringing total costs through 2002 to approximately \$1,380,000. This leaves approximately \$281,000 to carry over for new projects/expenses. In addition, totals for 2002 and 2003 do not include funding from the state of Texas, which recently joined the PFS and has not yet provided a funding commitment.