

State Planning and Research Program Quarterly Report

PROJECT TITLE: Training for Supervisors and Operators

OBJECTIVES: The goal of this project is to develop a comprehensive, easy-to-use training program for winter maintenance supervisors and operators. Under this contract, our team will work with the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Clear Roads Technical Advisory Committee to identify and compile the many resources on winter maintenance and develop a series of 18 training modules for supervisors, seasoned operators, and new operators for use in the classroom or online. Information gathered through synthesis is only valuable if it can be effectively transmitted in clearly prepared documents and materials.

PERIOD COVERED: April 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES:
University of Minnesota – Prime
Fortin Consulting Inc. - Subcontractor

PROJECT MANAGER:

Tom Peters

LEAD AGENCY:

Minnesota Department of Transportation

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

Jim Grothaus

SP&R PROJECT NO:

MnDOT Contract No.
99008 Work Order No. 168

PROJECT IS:

Planning
 Research & Development

ANNUAL BUDGET:

\$100,000

PROJECT EXPENDITURES TO DATE:

It is an 18 month contract. We have completed 1/2 (9 months) of the work. An estimate of the amount of spent to date would be:
\$50,000.00

WORK COMPLETED:

To date the project team has worked on the following modules. Each of the PPT modules contains technical information and photos. These modules are approx.. 80% complete. The instruction workbook, quizzes, PPT formatting still need to be complete. Fortin Consulting has been working very closely with the TAP to obtain comments and approval during this process. A conference call to discuss project progress is scheduled for August 12, 2015

14 Modules are at 80% complete. Each of these modules has a PPT with Technical Content that has been approved by the TAP but do have the supporting materials (instruction workbook, pre/post test, answer key, etc...)

Module 1: Plowing Procedures

Module 2: Truck Operations

Module 3: Spreaders

Module 4: Material Use

Module 5: Pre-wetting

Module 6: Brine Production

Module 7: De-icing

Module 8: Anti-icing (including brine use)

Module 10: De-icing Agent Management Policy

Module 11: Level of Service

Module 13: Science of Freeze Point Depressants

Module 14: Snow and Ice Control Agents and the Environment

Module 16: Weather Basics

Module 17: Bridge Frost

The following four Modules are currently being developed from a technical point of view and are at various stages in the review process:

Module 9: Safety

Module 12: Principle of Ice Formation

Module 15: Drift Control and Wind

Module 18: Avalanche Management

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES EXPECTED TO BE PERFORMED NEXT QUARTER:

We anticipate finalizing the instructional workbook, quizzes, and final PPT format for six of the modules by September 30, 2015. This date has changed since the last quarterly report. It still meets the deadlines that are listed in the contract. Meet and review the materials with the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) in August 2015. Work on remaining modules and review them with the TAP. Have highest priority modules (up to six) ready by September 30, 2015.

Additionally we will submit a request for an amendment to develop an additional 5 modules.

STATUS AND COMPLETION DATE:

We have approval of Task 1, 2 and 3. We have not submitted a request for approval for Task 4. We will discuss this at the August 12, 2015 Meeting.