

State Planning and Research Program Quarterly Report

PROJECT TITLE: *Measuring the Efficiencies of Tow Plows and Wing Plows*

OBJECTIVES: First, the research will develop a strong practitioner-based understanding of real-world life cycle costs, benefits, and efficiencies of tow plows and wing plows, including maintenance, operational, and storage issues. Second, the research will develop tools for DOT decision-making and procurement, including a Decisions Support Tool and a Best Practices Guide, which will be helpful in procurement decisions and in actual use of such plows.

PERIOD COVERED: March 20, 2020 – March 31, 2020

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Clear Roads Technical Advisory Committee

PROJECT MANAGER:
Debbie Sinclair / Tom Peters

LEAD AGENCY: MnDOT

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
Ty Lasky, UC-Davis

SP&R PROJECT NO:
MnDOT Contract No.
1034818

Federal Project Number:
TPF-5(353)

PROJECT IS:

☐ Planning
☒ Research & Development

ANNUAL BUDGET: \$24,000
(Total Project Budget): \$124,980

PROJECT EXPENDITURES TO DATE: \$0 *

WORK COMPLETED:

- Work start received March 20, 2020.
- Coordination teleconference held March 24 with the project subcommittee.
- Literature and project review completed. Draft interim report sent to project manager on March 31, 2020.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES EXPECTED TO BE PERFORMED NEXT QUARTER:

- Participate in kick-off meeting on April 15.
- Revise literature and project review report from committee review.
- Initiate Survey of Practice. Draft questions and provide to committee for review.

STATUS AND COMPLETION DATE:

We have proceeded at an accelerated pace for Task 1 in order to get the project back on schedule. The proposed project duration was 18 months, and the proposal did not include a fixed start date or ties to actual dates for the schedule. There seems to have been a miscommunication between our submitted proposal and development of the final schedule in the contract. The contract allows just over 16 months for the project, and the first task draft is due approximately 7 days after the work start date. This effort was originally scheduled for two months. However, based on our strong background in this area, and by dedicating our researcher's time for a full work week to this effort, we have been able to provide the deliverable according to the truncated schedule, and the project is now back on the contracted schedule.

* Because of administrative deadlines, we did not charge time for the month of March, 2020. Charges will begin in April 2020.