

State Planning and Research Program Quarterly Report

PROJECT TITLE: Standard Specifications for Plow Blades with Carbide Inserts

OBJECTIVES: Develop a set of accepted specifications and drawings to be used by multiple agencies.

PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 2018 – September 30, 2018

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

PROJECT MANAGER:

Debra Fick/ Tom Peters

LEAD AGENCY: Mn/DOT

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

Erik Minge, SRF Consulting Group

SP&R PROJECT NO:

MnDOT Contract No.
1028785

Federal Project Number:
TPF-5(353)

PROJECT IS:

Planning
 Research & Development

ANNUAL BUDGET: \$49,920.00

PROJECT EXPENDITURES TO DATE: \$24,589.00

WORK COMPLETED:

- Submitted draft Literature Review memorandum (Task 1), incorporated TAC comments, and submitted final.
- Compiled list of carbide specifications (part of Task 2).
- Agency Outreach Survey regarding current plow blade use was sent out (part of Task 2). Awaiting additional responses from Clear Roads Members. Currently have two-thirds participation.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES EXPECTED TO BE PERFORMED NEXT QUARTER:

- Incorporate additional survey responses into survey analysis performed to date
- Continue progress on data synthesis and analysis (Task 3) of compiled specifications to provide the TAC with draft recommendations of necessary and unnecessary specifications
- Continue progress on plow blade vendor outreach to assess current practices in regards to Acceptable Quality Levels of carbide inserts and the manufacturing process (part of Task 3).
- Submit draft deliverables for Task 3 for review, revise based on comments and issue final deliverables.
- Upon Task 3 approval and completion, begin writing standard specifications for plow blades with carbide inserts and CAD drawings.

STATUS AND COMPLETION DATE: Progress has been made on Task 3 – data synthesis and analysis. A preliminary analysis has been completed on the agency outreach survey, however, additional survey responses have been requested by the Clear Roads PM (Greg Waidley), who expects about 85-95% participation. These responses will be incorporated into the draft Task 3 report. The anticipated completion date is scheduled for January 2019, but as we wait for responses and progress with as much of the other portions of the project as possible, we acknowledge that project time extension request is likely. We have had preliminary discussions with Greg Waidley and will discuss towards the end of the month.