

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: July 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021

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

PROJECT MANAGER:
Debbie Sinclair / Tom Peters

SP&R PROJECT NO:
MnDOT Contract No.
1034818

PROJECT IS:

☐ Planning
☒ Research & Development

LEAD AGENCY: MnDOT

Federal Project Number:
TPF-5(353)

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
Ty Lasky, UC-Davis

ANNUAL BUDGET: \$138,986 (Total Project Budget)

PROJECT EXPENDITURES TO DATE: \$100,487

WORK COMPLETED:

- AHMCT awaits final feedback on the final report (Task 9).
- AHMCT met with subcommittee on 7/16/21 to discuss development of a user's guide for the Decision Support Tool. All agree this is out of scope, so an amendment was pursued.
- AHMCT filed a time and cost amendment request, modifying end date to 1/31/22, and increasing funding to \$138,986 to support development of the Decision Support Tool user's guide (Task 10).
- On 7/29, the subcommittee approved moving the amendment request to MnDOT.
- On 7/30, AHMCT filed the amendment package with Debbie Sinclair of MnDOT.
- As of 8/1/21, AHMCT was on a work stop pending execution of the amendment.
- As of 9/30/21, the amendment package was near full execution.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES EXPECTED TO BE PERFORMED NEXT QUARTER:

- Execution of amendment (done 10/5/21).
- Meet with subcommittee to refine plans for the DST user's guide development. Expected to occur 10/15/21).
- Develop draft DST user's guide, submit to subcommittee for review and feedback.
- Finalize and submit DST user's guide based on subcommittee feedback.
- Prepare for final closeout webinar presentation to Clear Roads.

STATUS AND COMPLETION DATE:

- On schedule, expected project completion January 31, 2022.
- As amendment was not executed as of 9/30/21 but is imminent, annual and total funds will be updated on next quarter's report. Project year 2 budget will be \$51,973, and total project budget will be \$138,986.