

## 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:** Oct 1, 2018 – Dec 31 2018

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

**PROJECT MANAGER:**

Debra Fick/ Tom Peters

**SP&R PROJECT NO:**

MnDOT Contract No.  
1028785

**PROJECT IS:**

Planning  
 Research & Development

**LEAD AGENCY:** Mn/DOT

Federal Project Number:  
TPF-5(353)

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**

Erik Minge, SRF Consulting Group

**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$49,920.00

**PROJECT EXPENDITURES TO DATE:** \$29,012.60

**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). Received additional responses and incorporated responses into survey analysis.
- Prepared and received approval for contract amendment No.2 which added a plant visit to one of the largest manufacturers of snow plow blades.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES EXPECTED TO BE PERFORMED NEXT QUARTER:**

- Attend plant visit and incorporate knowledge gained in subsequent deliverables.
- 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 2 and 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:** Following the plant visit, a draft of Task 2 – Vendor input will be submitted. Progress continues to be made on Task 3 – data synthesis and analysis. We received additional responses for the survey and have incorporated those results into our analysis. In coordination with the PM (Greg Waidley), we submitted a contract amendment with a time extension due to delays related to survey responses as well as the additional scope added for the plant visit. The submitted revised end date for the project is 10/31/2019.