CONNECTICUT SPR-PL-1(48)

SP&R Quarterly Progress Reports

Study No. SPR-2107 FY 2011 Date Prepared: 9/30/10

Quarter Reported: 7/1/10 to 9/30/10

Title Management - New England Transportation Consortium

Research Agency Connecticut Department of Transportation

Project Started: January 1996

Bureau of Engineering and Highway Operations
Office of Research and Materials
Division of Research

Funds Programmed for FY 2011 $216,500 ($72,420 SPR; $144,080 State)

Quarterly Expenditures - See report from Policy & Planning.

Work Items:

ConnDOT Tasks

1. Continued efforts to facilitate the transfer of the Lead State Agency designation to the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VAOT).

2. Refer to the SP&R Quarterly Progress Report for SPR-0222, "Administration - Part II Research," for information on the following NETC-related TPF projects:

   - SPR-3(009), "New England Surface Transportation Consortium."
   - SPR-3(029), "New England Transportation Consortium (NETC): 1995-1999."
   - SPR-3(089), "New England Transportation Consortium (NETC): 2000-2006."
   - TPF-5(168), "New England Transportation Consortium (NETC) IV: 2007+."
   - TPF-5(201), "New England Transportation Consortium (NETC) V."
   - TPF-5(222), "New England Transportation Consortium (NETC) (VI)."

3. Distributed the following NETC report(s):

   None

4. Sent an electronic version of the following NETC report(s) to TRIS/NTL:

   None

5. Received report URLs from TRIS for the following NETC report(s):

   None

6. Agreements and Memoranda-of-Understanding (MOUs):

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a. Refer to the "Problems Encountered" Section.

b. For several quarters, the Department has not initiated any contractual activities for any projects requiring time extensions to complete the study, pending the transfer of the NETC Lead Agency designation to a new Lead Agency. (Refer to the "Problems Encountered" Section.) It is anticipated that the new Lead Agency will initiate contracting with the Universities for the completion of the projects.

NETC Coordination Tasks (University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth)

1. Continued implementation process of recommendations contained in the Final Report for the 10-Year Review of the NETC Program.

2. Closed the following project(s):

   None

3. Cancelled the following project(s):

   None

4. Distributed the following report(s):

   None

5. Produced the following paper(s) and presentation(s):

   None

Problems Encountered:

Significant and repeated delays on processing PSAs have occurred during the last 27 months because of new State contracting procedures and requirements. This continues to be an on-going problem.

Because of these on-going problems, the Department and the NETC Advisory Committee had requested one of the NETC member state transportation agencies or FHWA to assume the Lead State designation. In that capacity, the new Lead Agency will then assume all contractual obligations for NETC. During the spring of 2009, FHWA withdrew its offer to assume the Lead Agency designation due to manpower and work load restrictions. The NETC Advisory Committee reviewed various options for designating the Lead Agency. The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VAOT) is in the process of assuming the Lead Agency designation and has established a new Transportation Pooled Fund (TPF) project, TPF-5(222), "New England Transportation Consortium (NETC) (VI)." However, VAOT still has some legal issues that they have to resolve. Because of the uncertainty over the designation of the new NETC Lead Agency, there was a lack of uniformity, among the NETC member states, in the transfer of funds to any of the existing NETC TPF projects. FHWA-CT and the Department are currently in the process of auditing the NETC program to determine the financial status of commitments (pledges), transfers, project expenditures and project balances for each of the NETC TPF projects; once this audit has been finalized, the Department and/or FHWA will notify the NETC member states of the corrective action, if any, to be undertaken. In the meantime, several

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NETC member states have begun transferring funds to SPR-5(022) to satisfy financial mandates within their individual state.

The Department will continue to administer any contractual obligations for currently active Agreements. However, any new contractual activity, including Amendments to currently active Agreements, is not being processed at this time. FHWA has offered and begun the process to contract, by Purchase Order Contract, with the Universities for the completion of any project that was not completed during the contract period under a Department Agreement. It is anticipated that the new Lead Agency will initiate contracting with the Universities for any new project that was not initiated under a Department Agreement.

By directive of the Office of the Attorney General, the contracting mechanism with the University of Connecticut is Memorandum-of-Understanding (MOU). The procedure for executing MOUs is much easier than that for Agreements because most of the new State contractual requirements are not applicable to MOUs. Therefore, the Department is still initiating new NETC contractual activities, including Amendments to currently active NETC projects, with the University of Connecticut.

See previous quarterly reports.

Is Work On Schedule?

Yes. Refer to the “Problems Encountered” Section.

Significant Findings:

None

Anticipated Work for Next Quarter:

ConnDOT Tasks

1. Continue efforts to facilitate the transfer of the Lead State Agency designation to the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VAOT).

2. Agreements and Memoranda-of-Understanding (MOUs):

None

NETC Coordination Tasks (University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth)

1. Continue implementation process of recommendations contained in the Final Report for the 10-Year Review of the NETC Program.

Dionysia Oliveira

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