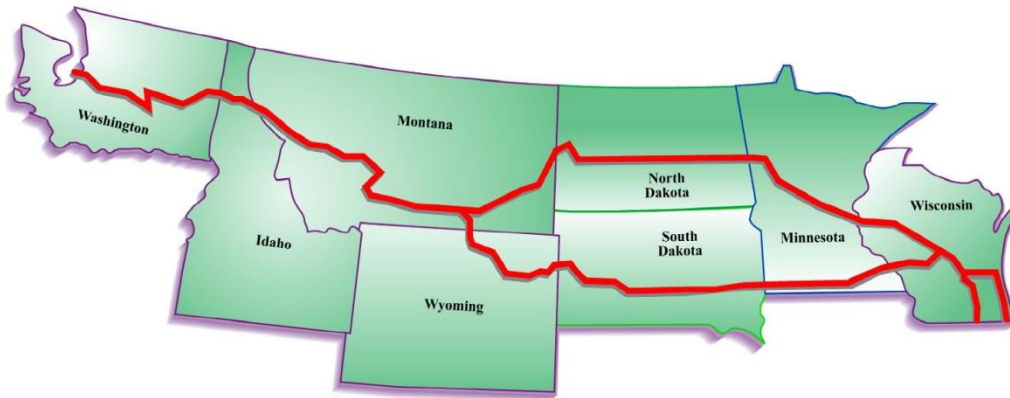


# North/West Passage Transportation Pooled Fund TPF-5(190)

## Project 6.3: Citizen Assisted Reporting – Phase 2 Citizen Reporting Road and Weather Condition Consistent Phrases



## Project Summary

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## **Project 6.3: Citizen Assisted Reporting – Phase 2**

### **Project Summary**

The Wyoming Department of Transportation (DOT) has successfully developed and deployed a system that allows authorized citizens to manually report driving conditions to Wyoming DOT staff, who then enter the events into the statewide reporting system for dissemination on 511 and the web. Additional details of Wyoming's Enhanced Citizen Assisted Reporting (ECAR) program were of interest to the other members of the eight state Pooled Fund consortium referred to as the North/West Passage Program (North/West Passage Program members include Washington State, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin). Wyoming DOT shared the details of their ECAR Program with the North/West Passage members in a previous phase of this project ([Project 5.1: Citizen Assisting Reporting Phase 1](#)). The project also explored ways in which Wyoming's program could be improved for maximized success in future implementations and explored the feasibility of the expanding citizen reporting additional North/West Passage states.

Through cooperative efforts with the North/West Passage Program, Wyoming DOT is expanding the ECAR project to allow authorized citizens to use a web-based interface to report driving conditions to DOT staff. Also, Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) is developing and implementing a citizen reporting system modeled after the Wyoming system that also will allow authorized citizens to report conditions through a web interface. This approach is different from Wyoming in that Idaho will be allowing direct input from citizens to the reporting systems where in Wyoming citizens call in conditions that are then entered into the reporting system by staff.

With the ultimate goals of consistent reporting across state boundaries, and the potential for long distance travelers to report conditions for both Wyoming and Idaho, the North/West Passage Program helped in this second phase of the project helping the two states work together to develop common reporting phrases and definitions. These phrases were identified by first reviewing the phrases used in the initial Wyoming ECAR program, then by reviewing the common phrases recommended by earlier efforts of the North/West Passage program ([Project 3.1: Corridor-Wide Consistent Major Event Descriptions](#)), and finally by reviewing the phrases used by the Idaho Transportation Department. Detailed discussions about the use of the phrases allowed both states to come to agreement on a small list of phrases that is agreed to be manageable to train citizens to use. It is also important to note that the Wyoming DOT is working with the Utah DOT to expand citizen reporting to Utah. The common reporting phrases from this project have also been shared with Utah in an effort to continue the consistency between states.

The table on the following pages summarizes the consistent phrases to be used by the Idaho and Wyoming citizen assisted reporting programs.

## Road and Weather Condition Phrases for Citizen Assisted Reporting

Phrases to be used by Idaho and Wyoming Citizen Assisted Reporting programs	Map to Current WYOMING Road and Weather Condition Phrases from ECAR Handbook	Map to Current IDAHO Road and Weather Condition Phrases	North/West Passage Recommended Phrases from NWP Project 3.1: Corridor-Wide Consistent Major Event Descriptions		
<b>Road Conditions</b>					
<b>Dry</b> (Considering switching to "Clear")	The road is dry or a little bit damp	<b>Dry</b>	<b>Dry</b>	<b>Dry</b>	Road surface dry.
<b>Wet<sup>1</sup></b>	There are puddles and standing water present; spray coming off cars. (An occasional damp spot doesn't qualify)	<b>Wet</b>	<b>Wet</b>	<b>Wet</b>	Road surface is wet from precipitation or water across roadway.
<b>Ice</b>	Frozen water adhered to the road surface causing moderate to extreme slippery conditions.	<b>Slick</b>	<b>Wet and Icy Roads</b>  <b>Ice</b>	<b>Ice</b>	Frozen water adhered to the road surface causing moderate to extreme slippery conditions.
<b>Icy Patches</b>	Short, non-continuous sections of icy or snow packed road. Less than 50% of road section is icy or snow packed.	<b>Slick in Spots</b>	<b>Icy Patches</b>	<b>Ice</b>	Frozen water adhered to the road surface causing moderate to extreme slippery conditions.
<b>Snow Covered</b>	Snow that has accumulated on the road surface, including drifts and packed snow.		<b>Snow Covered</b>	<b>Snow Covered</b>	Snow that has accumulated on the road surface.
<b>Slush</b>	Melting snow – usually not long lived condition. State of transition between two states.		<b>Slush</b>		Melting snow – usually not long lived condition. State of transition between two states.
<b>Falling Rock<sup>1</sup></b>	Falling rocks or rocks on roadway surface.		<b>Rock Hazard</b>		
<b>Large Animals on Roadway<sup>1</sup></b>	Large animals on roadway surface.		<b>Large Animals on Roadway</b>		

Phrases to be used by Idaho and Wyoming Citizen Assisted Reporting programs	Map to Current WYOMING Road and Weather Condition Phrases from ECAR Handbook	Map to Current IDAHO Road and Weather Condition Phrases	North/West Passage Recommended Phrases from NWP Project 3.1: Corridor-Wide Consistent Major Event Descriptions
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## Weather Conditions

<b>Snow</b>	Precipitation in the form of snowflakes that may or may not accumulate on the road surface.	<b>Snow</b>	<b>Light Snow</b> <b>Snow</b> <b>Heavy Snow</b> <b>Rain and Snow mixed</b>	<b>Snow</b>	Precipitation in the form of snowflakes that may or may not accumulate on the road surface.
<b>Rain</b>	In excess of light showers with potential to make the road surface wet	<b>Rain</b>	<b>Rain</b> <b>Heavy Rain</b>	<b>Rain</b>	Continuous or near continuous non-freezing precipitation that has potential to make the road surface wet. Conditions beyond isolated showers or precipitation that does not wet the pavement.
<b>Strong Winds</b>	Winds greater than 35 mph. (Report strong wind when wind affects driving ability).	<b>Strong Winds</b>	<b>Gusty Winds</b> <b>High Winds</b>	<b>Strong Winds</b>	Winds greater than 30 mph.
<b>Reduced Visibility</b>	Visibility less than 400 feet (for any reason)	<b>Fog</b> <b>Limited Visibility</b>	<b>Patchy Fog</b> <b>Dense Fog</b> <b>Reduced Visibility</b> <b>Blowing Dust</b> <b>Blowing Snow</b> <b>Smoke</b>	<b>Reduced Visibility</b>	Visibility less than 400 feet (for any reason)
<b>Blowing Snow<sup>1</sup></b>	Snow propelled by the wind across or along the road surface, at least one (1) foot above the ground	<b>Blowing Snow</b>	<b>Blowing Snow</b>	<b>Blowing Snow</b>	Snow propelled by the wind across or along the road surface, at least one (1) foot above the ground

<sup>1</sup> Idaho is currently not planning to use these phrases in the Idaho Citizen Reporting System, but may consider them in the future.