

North/West Passage Project 9.1: Operations Task Force

2014-2015 Work Plan – September 24, 2014

Introduction

North/West Passage established a temporary Operations Task Force in 2013 that was intended to establish relationships, enhance the scope of operations-oriented projects, support further implementation of project findings, and increase interaction among the states outside of major events. The steering committee has extended the task force through August 2015 to allow them to further assess the value of an ongoing, dedicated group focused on traveler information and related operational coordination activities and projects.

The 2013-2014 work plan that was completed by the task force included updates to TMC/TOC operational contacts and information, discussions about major events and rural TMC/TOC operations, exchange of standard operating procedures and identification of an operations roadmap for the coming year. The task force has developed this 2014-2015 work plan to support the operations roadmap which is illustrated by the following points.

- Continue emphasis on **identifying, planning for and coordinating major events** – planned and unplanned.
- Continue **peer exchange style discussions of operational approaches** that individual states are using to manage events, particularly as it may support states developing TMC/TOC facilities.
- Monitor how **OTIIS is supporting traveler information** in the corridor.

Participation

The task force participants provide more in-depth expertise on the states' individual operating procedures and on the approaches that North/West Passage could pursue to strengthen and maintain coordination among the states, particularly during major events. The states have confirmed the following participants to represent traveler information and Traffic Management Center (TMC)/Traffic Operations Center (TOC) operations issues on the task force.

Bill Legg, Washington DOT – Task Force Chair	Jason Fernandez, Wyoming DOT
Brian Kary, Minnesota DOT	Brandon Beise, North Dakota DOT
John McLellan, Minnesota DOT	Tony Ernest, Idaho Transportation Department
Dave Huft, South Dakota DOT	Chris Loffer, Idaho Dept. of Health and Welfare
Brandi Hamilton, Montana DOT	Paul Keltner, Wisconsin DOT
Gabe Gutierrez, Wyoming DOT	

Work Plan

The task force will complete the following tasks over the upcoming year. Note that some of the tasks relate to other North/West Passage projects that will be completed in the same timeframe.

Task	Target Date
A. Work Plan (Milestone 1). Finalize a work plan for the task force that describes their role and specific activities that they will work on through August 2015. This document is the proposed work plan and it will be reviewed / modified /	September 17

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Task	Target Date
approved by the task force during their initial meeting for the year.	
B. Seasonal Webinar. Approve content for (during September 17 meeting), participate in and assess the value of the seasonal coordination webinar targeted for October 15. Webinar will include brief major event after action review.	October 15 10:00-10:30AM (Central)
C. Regional Operations Forum. Provide practitioners with new and innovative approaches for managing and operating the highway system, drawing from the cutting edge work being carried out under the SHRP2 program and other national programs.	November 20
D. Approaches to 24/7 staffing. Discuss how North/West Passage states are managing 24/7 staffing, particularly in light of the 24/7 reporting requirements in 23 CFR 511.	December 17
E. Planning and preparing for major events. Identify and plan coordination for planned major events along the corridor in the coming year.	January 21
F. Regional Operations Forum (Continued). Continue earlier discussion to follow up on details around hosting a forum.	February 11
G. Upcoming ITS deployment plans. Exchange information about ITS deployments planned or being considered along I-90/I-94 that could further enhance coordination during major events.	March 11
H. Identify operations oriented project ideas for future work plans (Milestone 2). Additional budget in Work Plan 9 is also available for operations projects that may arise from task force discussions.	April 15
I. Steering Committee Annual Meeting	May 11-12
J. Major event after action reviews. At least twice during the next year, debrief on major events that have occurred in the corridor with emphasis on how traveler information and operations were coordinated.	June 17
K. Citizen reporting and other crowd sourcing. Allow for follow on discussion of experiences and lessons learned with obtaining traveler information from travelers. Feature status of TMC Pooled Fund Study project to explore crowd sourcing for TMCs.	July 15
L. API use among the states. Discuss how North/West Passage states are using API options to provide traveler information.	August 12

Summary Schedule

The task force will meet by webinar/teleconference once each month as noted above from 3:00-3:30PM (Central) to address the tasks outlined above. Two of the tasks are also considered major milestones for the project and they are noted as such in the descriptions above and in the schedule below.

