

State of Wisconsin/Department of Transportation
 RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING: March 31, 2009

Program: SPR-0010(36) FFY99		Part: II Research and Development	
Project Title: Estimating Cost Per Mile for Routine Highway Operations and Maintenance		Project ID: MRUTC 07-12 (0092-06-12)	
Administrative Contact: Jason Bittner		Sponsor: MRUTC	
WisDOT Technical Contact: Scott Bush		Approved Starting Date: December 14, 2006	
Approved by COR/Steering Committee:		Original End Date: October 14, 2007	
Project Investigator (agency & contact): Teresa Adams, UW-Madison		Current End Date: December 31, 2008	
		Number of Extensions: 3	

Percent Complete: 95%

Request a No Cost Time Extension (Please Select One): YES NO

Reason for No Cost Time Extension: The research team has requested a no-cost time extension to 3/31/2009 to allow additional time to complete the difficult task of relating maintenance cost and condition data.

Project Description:

When transportation agencies prepare designs for new highway construction or major improvements to existing highways, the agency and user lifecycle costs are considered in project design decisions. Yet when highway projects are completed, maintenance budgets are rarely adjusted to accommodate the routine maintenance of new lane miles.

This problem is worsened by the fact that each year the number of vehicle miles traveled per highway mile increases. Maintenance budgets do not keep pace or remain constant. The growing disparity between maintenance budgets and maintenance requirements causes agencies to make tough choices about maintenance priorities. Aside from concerns about preserving capital investment; highway operations and maintenance bureaus have concerns about safety and loss of operational efficiency due to deteriorating condition of roadways.

The focus of this research is estimating the cost of ongoing routine operations and maintenance cost components of the total highway lifecycle cost. There are two main activities:

1. Perform a correlation study to characterize the relationship between maintenance cost and maintenance condition.
2. Develop models equations for estimating the recurring annual cost for routine, county-level highway maintenance.

