

**State of Wisconsin/Department of Transportation/Midwest Regional University Transportation Center  
RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING: September 30, 2002**

<b>Program: SPR-0010(36) FFY01</b>	<b>Part: II Research and Development</b>
<b>Project Title: Deer-Vehicle Crash Information Clearinghouse Initiation</b>	<b>Project ID: 144-KG66</b>
<b>Administrative Contact: Aileen Switzer</b>	<b>Sponsor: MRUTC</b>
<b>WisDOT Technical Contact: Nina McLawhorn</b>	<b>Approved Starting Date: 7/1/01</b>
<b>Approved by COR/Steering Committee:</b>	<b>Approved Ending Date: 6/30/03</b>
<b>Project Investigator (agency &amp; contact): UW-Madison, Keith Knapp</b>	

**Description:**

<b>Total study budget</b>	<b>Current FFY budget</b>	<b>Expenditures for current quarter</b>	<b>Total Expenditures to date</b>
<b>\$500,000</b>		<b>\$42,148.58(Oct-Dec)</b>	<b>198,858.60</b>

**Progress This Quarter:**

The following activities occurred during this quarter:

- The Draft Countermeasures Toolbox - Part 2 was completed for review by the committee (Deadline for comments was set for 1/31/03). Countermeasures summaries of deer deicing alternatives, deer flagging, intercept feeding, crossing signs, reflectors/mirrors, and repellents were completed.
- The Countermeasures Toolbox – Part 1 was installed on the [www.deercrash.com](http://www.deercrash.com) webpage.
- The Draft Countermeasures Toolbox – Part 3 was started. It will include an Executive Summary, Conclusion/Recommendations, and summaries of effectiveness for fencing, grade separations and crossings, management or hunting, and vegetation/roadside management.
- Numerous media/other requests were answered.
- Began setup of 2/3-2/4 Second Annual Committee/Board Meeting and Workshop here in Madison. Location and speaker details investigated.
- Data we have from each state was categorized. collected to update the fall brochure. 2001 data from three of five are available (Iowa is reworking its computer system and MN has indicated they are not doing summaries due to budget issues).
- A draft summary of the responses to the data management and collection survey was completed and will be submitted for review to the technical committee in February/March for detailed completion.
- Staffing issues on the project continue impact our ability to meet the proposed/revised schedule. This issue was acknowledged at the beginning of the project as the biggest challenge. The amount and concern about literature quality, and the proper evaluation of these “references” has also been more significant than expected.
- Two supported graduate students worked on project and also significantly advanced extra thesis-related work on county DVC prediction models and DVC patterns with respect to deer crossing sign locations.
- Staffing decisions made will result in the

<b>Task Title</b>	<b>Scheduled/Expected Completion Date</b>	<b>Percent Complete</b>
Task 1: Create a Technical Advisory Committee	July 2001/November 2001	100%
Task 2: Review DVC-Related and DVC Countermeasure Research	November 2001/May 2003	85%
Task 3: Review Deer, Vehicle, and DVC Information Management System Methodologies	April 2002/December 2002	60%
Task 4: Propose DVC Research and Data Collection Standards	June 2002/December 2002	10%
Task 5: Collect and Reduce the Deer, Vehicle, and DVC Data from Five States	September 2002/February 2003	10%
Task 6: Improve and Populate the DVC Information Clearinghouse Webpage	June 2003/June 2003	30%

Task 7: Summarize and Document Current Deer, Vehicle, and DVC Data	March 2003/March 2003	10%
Task 8: Assist WisDOT with DVC Information Management Standardization Plan	April 2003/April 2003	0%
Task 9: Promote DVC Information Clearinghouse First-Year Results and Monitor Usefulness	June 2003/June 2003	0%
Task 10: DVC Information Exchange and Clearinghouse Continuation Activities	June 2003/June 2003	30%
Total	June 2003/June 2003	40%

**Work Next Quarter:**

- Complete Draft Countermeasure Toolbox – Part 3 for review by committee, and finalize Toolbox.
- Review, expand, and upgrade webpage content.
- Complete telephone data management survey summary for committee review and finalize.
- Hold February meeting for DVC committee/board and workshop.
- Start a research standards document after the countermeasures toolbox and survey summary completion.
- Begin pursuit of historical and current deer, carcass, and crash data from all five states. Would like 5 to 10 years if possible.
- Discuss future of Clearinghouse and a possible rescoping of its tasks after June 2003.
- Remove student and full-time staff labor from project and reorganize as per results of the above discussion (i.e., future of clearinghouse and rescoping of its tasks).

**Circumstances affecting progress/budget:**

As expected when the project started, the biggest issue has been finding productive full-time staff members that are willing and capable of doing this work for the salary available. The project is currently under budget, and has primarily spent money for labor to complete the countermeasures toolbox – which has been a relatively significant undertaking – and the meetings held. Actions have been taken to minimize labor charges after March 2003.

Student labor will be removed from the project on 3/15. The PI/director is currently only charging one day per week to the project and there is one full-time staff person. The full-time staff person is expected to leave the project by the end of March unless he can effectively help finish the tasks remaining to complete.

A general review of two-thirds of the “research” on countermeasures effectiveness has shown what was suspected – the toolbox will be a definitive document on the need for further valid, reliable, and repeatable research in this area. The results of the countermeasure toolbox will be shared and the updated (if included in the project rescoping) as new research and documents are completed.

The other deliverables for this project generally include the telephone survey results summary, a short memorandum on research standards, a 1<sup>st</sup> year summary of regional data, and a sharing of this information on the DVC webpage. The need to help the DOT standardize their DVC crash data collection approach will need to be the result of other projects that focus on database management. Suggestions may be made with respect to some methods of improving the DVC crash data collected in WI. In general, the project team believes that any additional public information activities (beyond sharing the results from the activities described here) would not add significantly to the current knowledge in the DVC area for the region.

It was proposed that the project (e.g., staffing structure and content) approach be re-evaluated in the next quarter to determine how it should advance to produce the most value for the budget remaining.

Other factors that continue to impact the project include strict travel restrictions on workers in almost all the participating states, and a general decrease in interest and/or ability to get information that appears to be related to budget problems in each state. Mass early retirements are also impacting the project with numerous changes and/or open committee positions either coming or already available. In Wisconsin, the introduction of chronic wasting disease in white-tailed deer has not surprisingly shifted the focus of the DNR away from the DVC issue.

