

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

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

Description:

Total study budget	Current FFY budget	Expenditures for current quarter	Total Expenditures to date
\$500,000		\$96,939.72 (July-September)	\$156,710

Progress This Quarter:

The following activities occurred during this quarter:

- The full-time staff person hired for the project in June advanced the countermeasure toolbox summaries. The majority of the following were completed (they were submitted for technical committee review in October):
 - Chapter 1 of the toolbox
 - Summaries of countermeasures: in-vehicle technology, speed limit reduction, whistles, and highway lighting.
- Numerous media/other requests were answered (NY times, Journal Sentinel, etc.)
- Presented project results to ITE National meeting in Philadelphia
- Contacted by Oh Deer, Inc. and offered the installation of their equipment at one-two sites in Wisconsin. Issue is finding evaluation money.
- The summary of the other countermeasure effectiveness literature continued. A team of four people is currently assigned to this task.
- Data from the states were collected to update the fall brochure, but only three of five are available (Iowa is reworking its computer system and MN has indicated they are not doing summaries due to budget issues).
- The September committee/board meeting was planned for but cancelled due to lack of availability of participants.
- John Kinar (DOT) went to the CANMORE conference on DVC bridge mitigation and will report on that.
- The data management and collection survey was submitted to the technical meeting members. Nine of 10 responses were received after numerous contacts. Follow-up will occur for detail and summary in the next several weeks.
- 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. The spending on the project is at about 31% of the budget (with about 60% encumbered) and we are 15 months into the 24 month project. Discussions about future proposal content and tasks to be completed in the second year will start soon. Work on this project actually began in September 2001 (with the arrival of students) and not when the contract indicates the start of the project.

Task Title	Scheduled/Expected Completion Date	Percent Complete
Task 1: Create a Technical Advisory Committee	July 2001/November 2001	100%
Task 2: Review DVC-Related and DVC Countermeasure Research	November 2001/November 2002	80%
Task 3: Review Deer, Vehicle, and DVC Information Management System Methodologies	April 2002/December 2002	40%
Task 4: Propose DVC Research and Data Collection Standards	June 2002/December 2002	5%
Task 5: Collect and Reduce the Deer, Vehicle, and DVC Data from Five States	September 2002/February 2003	5%

Task 6: Improve and Populate the DVC Information Clearinghouse Webpage	June 2003/June 2003	25%
Task 7: Summarize and Document Current Deer, Vehicle, and DVC Data	March 2003/March 2003	2%
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	25%
Total	June 2003/June 2003	25%

Work Next Quarter:

- Complete the countermeasures toolbox with reviews by committee.
- Review and expansion of webpage content.
- Summary of telephone survey results.
- Start planning for February/March meeting for DVC committee.
- A research standards document will be started after the countermeasures toolbox completion.
- John Kinar will report on this CANMORE experience.
- Begin the pursuit of historical and current deer and crash data from all five states. Start with Iowa and Wisconsin.

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 to the project at this point. Student labor will soon be removed upon their graduation. The PI/director is currently only charging one day per week to the project and there is one full-time staff person.

A review of the countermeasure literature has indicated what was expected – 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 updating of this information as new research and documents are completed should be considered. Other deliverables for the project include the telephone survey results summary, a short memorandum on research standards, a 1st year summary of the regional data, and a sharing of this information on the DVC webpage. The project team believes any additional public information activities (beyond sharing the results from the activities described here) would not add to the current knowledge in the DVC area for the region.

It was been proposed that the project (e.g., staffing structure and content) approach be re-evaluated in the next three months to determine the budget for the completion of the remaining tasks and identify the other activities that may want to be completed to expand the current knowledge in the DVC research arena (given our new knowledge on the status of the subject).

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 DVCs issue.

