



## Transportation Library Pooled Fund Study

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# Transportation Library Connectivity

**Pooled Fund Study - TPF-5(105) Teleconference – January 17, 2007 - 10:30 to 12:30 CST**

Participants: Lisa Autio, Montana DOT (MtDOT); Jason Bittner, Wisconsin Transportation Center (WTC); Janet Bix, Ohio DOT (OhDOT); Cheryl Bodan, Pennsylvania DOT (PennDOT); Steve Cochran, Washington DOT (WsDOT); Ruth Letson (TDOT); Marie Manthe, Kansas DOT (KDOT); Susan Sillick, (MtDOT); Laura Wilt, Oregon DOT (ODOT); Christi Powers, Administrative/outreach services; Pat Casey & Maggie Sacco, Technical services, CTC & Associates.

### I. Check-in/Updates from TAC members

PennDOT – Cheryl Bodan inquired whether other TAC members will attend the [2007 AASHTO Value Engineering Conference](#) in Seattle in July. She volunteered to bring transportation library connectivity and other research materials to the summit. In addition, she is navigating through contract negotiations regarding CIRCE implementation and will be connecting with PALINET representatives as details unfold.

OhDOT – Janet Bix reported that Maggie Sacco presented a transportation library pooled fund update at the October 2006 Ohio Technical Engineering Conference. With more than 50 attendees, the panel presentation was well-received. Janet also mentioned she is working with Ohio DOT training staff on improving research techniques for instruction on Google, TLCat and library catalog basics. She will attend the TRB annual meeting and highlighted the Knowledge Management workshop slated for Sunday, January 21.

MtDOT – Lisa Autio commented on progress made during Maggie Sacco's site visit earlier this month. Maggie got a full tour of the facility and helped with updating MtDOT's TAC member survey. Lisa referred to the research and library unit's ongoing [article](#) submissions in the biweekly Intranet newsletter. Discussion ensued about comparing samples of newsletters, some of which are already [posted](#) on the marketing resources [page](#) of the library pooled fund Web site. More samples will be posted as they are forwarded by TAC members to Christi Powers.

TDOT – Ruth Letson indicated that a purchase requisition is in process to obtain another SydneyPlus module that will eventually allow for an overall OCLC upload of TDOT holdings. She said the new module will enable exporting documents in XML format.

WsDOT – Steve Cochran reported that as the state of Washington's legislative session began, the WsDOT library was asked to compile a Web-based legislative binder to help update congressional liaisons. He is working on the project with the government relations office and this effort has meant increased visibility for the library. Additionally, an analysis is underway to relocate the library to a new wing which will eventually double the square footage (an additional 625 sq. ft.). The move is scheduled within six months and will offer increased accessibility to library users. Steve also mentioned that work continues on the Google meta-search engine that was spearheaded by WsDOT librarian Mike Wendt. Once finalized, the National Transportation Library will link directly to the site. Other Google meta-search tools are being developed for transit, MPO, UTC, LTAP and TTAP directories. Discussion ensued about the particular capabilities of these search engines and how TAC members can use them.

MnDOT – Jerry Baldwin followed up by stating there is a Mn/DOT Library [page](#) that links to those same search engines (also found on the library pooled fund [home](#) page). More discussion occurred about the

administrative options for updating and adding URLs to the search engines. Maggie indicated that registering as a “volunteer” allows access to the control panel whereby Google has a function that preempts adding duplicate URLs to the existing database. Jerry also mentioned that he and his staff are preparing for celebrations in April to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mn/DOT Library.

KDOT – Marie Manthe stated that she received some eight boxes of miscellaneous items donated to the library by KDOT retirees. She is sorting through the acquisitions, continuing to catalog in OCLC, and is very close to having a complete update of AASHTO resources added to the KDOT library.

ODOT – Laura Wilt said that she is working on a Web-based data conversion of historic documents. She is pursuing grant funding, similar to the project via Hank Zalatel at Iowa DOT, to offset digitization costs for preservation of historic documents, maps and photos. Funding opportunities will be mitigated by existing platform specifications with a state FileNet contract. She is opting for an Internet-based platform for increased access but is comparing costs on those modules. Jerry Baldwin commented that MnDOT is working with the Minnesota Digital Library on an ILS “Reflections” project to digitize maps dating from 1919 to 1949.

WTC – Jason Bittner reported that the Midwest Regional University Transportation Center (MRUTC) is also working on an archiving project to digitize research materials that were generated through their center. He said that after 2008 the regional UTC designation will reside in Indiana at Purdue University, so plans are underway to preserve conference materials and other research resources. John Cherney (WisDOT) is helping on this D-Space initiative at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

WisDOT - Ann Pahnke reported that her organization has had a busy month in planning for a move to the lobby level of Hill Farms State Transportation Building, Madison. Moving from the eighth to the first floor, the library will have increased space and visibility along with adjacent offices to provide for closer proximity of affiliated staff. WisDOT has also spearheaded a library advisory committee that comprises division administrators and senior-level staff. They are working with the public affairs office to organize a ribbon-cutting ceremony in April to celebrate the new lobby location.

NTL – Amanda Wilson announced that the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) has hired a new director, Steve Dillingham, who comes from the private sector. She looks forward to working with him to build on NTL progress as a multi-modal “robust research repository.” She also reported a recent visit to Virginia DOT to connect with Ken Winter, librarian, and Maureen Hammer, knowledge management officer, who are both working on nationally-based projects.

## **II. Housekeeping**

Minutes – The TAC approved the November 15, 2006 meeting [minutes](#).

2007 annual meeting -- Christi Powers is working with Bob Sweet, MTKN chair, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Pyle Center to confirm room arrangements and equipment for the 2007 annual meeting. A block of 20 hotel rooms and a conference room are reserved at the Pyle Center for September 17 to 20, 2007. MTKN members are scheduled to meet Thursday afternoon, September 20 through Friday, September 21. TAC members are asked to submit their panel program and keynote speaker ideas to Christi who will seek volunteers for a program planning subcommittee.

Updates to Web site and blog – Maggie and Christi updated TAC members on specific additions to the Web site and blog. All are encouraged to participate in submitting blog comments as an ongoing part of the study.

## **III. Pooled fund two-year extension through 2009**

A majority of TAC members are interested in extending the project for another two years. Ann Pahnke forwarded an initial query to Dwight McComb at FHWA and has received preliminary clearance. A detailed phase two proposal and work plan will be developed. In the interim, TAC members will receive an automatic e-mail update from the TPF site which will enable states to start committing their participation levels. Ann, Pat Casey, John Cherney, Maggie and Christi will meet next month to discuss phase two scoping goals. TAC

members were asked to work with their research managers for continued participation in study. In the interim, if members have specific goals or deliverables, please notify Ann directly.

501(c)-3 tax exempt status – Christi met with Nikki Busch, [grants](#) librarian at the UW-Madison Memorial Library, to investigate options and obtain recommendations for supplemental funding. It became clear that the pooled fund study – or any regional transportation knowledge network – would need to obtain tax exempt status in order to qualify for most, if not all, of the applicable grants. Nikki was instructive as to which databases and funding sources to pursue if/when a 501(c)-3 status is obtained. It was mentioned that MTKN has a nonprofit status in the state of Minnesota but has not applied to the I.R.S. for federal tax exempt status. Steve will be looking into these options for WTKN as well.

#### **IV. Western Transportation Knowledge Network (WTKN)**

Steve reported that a second teleconference is scheduled for WTKN members, which consists of librarians and research managers from AASHTO RAC region four states. After conducting the first teleconference in December 2006, it was agreed that the pooled fund study could underwrite costs for the next teleconference slated for February 28. Borrowing from MTKN articles of incorporation, Steve has drafted similar documents and will eventually compile guiding principles and ILL guidelines for group input.

#### **V. TRB panel presentation**

TAC members Jerry Baldwin (MnDOT) and Leni Oman (WsDOT) are two featured panelists at the TRB [session 236](#) presentation co-sponsored by the pooled fund study and TRB LIST. “Transportation Information Revolution: World at Your Doorstep” will also have a state DOT secretary (Doug MacDonald -- WsDOT) and two transportation engineers (John Corbin – WisDOT) and Kirk Beach (Ohio DOT) who will share perspectives on improved information delivery and how to tap into available research. Maggie and Christi will co-moderate the session which is expected to draw attendees from various transportation modes.

AASHTO 2007 – WisDOT is helping AASHTO officials plan the [2007 conference](#) slated for September 27 to October 1 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Christi has consulted Mari Smith at WisDOT about possible venues for pooled fund study participation. Other venues were also discussed including the AASHTO RAC [annual meeting](#) that will be held in Seattle in August.

#### **VI. Subscriptions and collection analysis**

Maggie seeks feedback and subscription list prioritization from TAC members. Once prioritized, she will investigate discounts and ways to combine group costs. As for the OCLC [collection analysis tool](#), she is not ready to recommend this based on reports and an update from Roberto Sarmiento at Northwestern University. Apparently he participated in a Big 10 project that incurred significant problems with uploading complete fields into the database. Several ‘bugs’ have yet to be worked out and chunks of data are still missing. Maggie has consulted with Kate Vincent to get more detailed information; however, cost is another consideration in procuring this tool at this time. Maggie agreed to arrange a teleconference with Kate so that TAC committee members could ask more questions about the product.

Discussion ensued about putting the [TKN video](#) on YouTube.com. There was interest in the idea, however, formal authorization would need to be obtained from WisDOT since it produced and has rights to the video.

#### **VI. Close**

The next teleconference is slated for Wednesday, March 21 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon CDT.