



Transportation Library Pooled Fund Study

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Transportation Library Connectivity

Pooled Fund Study - TPF-5(105) Teleconference – March 21, 2007 – 10 a.m. to 12 noon CST

Participants: Lisa Autio, Montana DOT (MtDOT); Jerry Baldwin, Minnesota DOT (Mn/DOT); Jason Bittner, Wisconsin Transportation Center (WTC); Cheryl Bodan, Pennsylvania DOT (PennDOT); John Cherney, Wisconsin DOT (WisDOT); Steve Cochran, Washington DOT (WsDOT); Glynn Cavin, Louisiana Transportation Research Center (LTRC/TTEC); Ruth Letson (TDOT); Marie Manthe, Kansas DOT (KDOT); Caitlin McKee, Ohio DOT (OhDOT); Sandra Romero (LaDOT); Amanda Wilson, National Transportation Library (NTL); 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

LaDOT /LTRC/TTEC– [Glynn Cavin](#), administrator for the Transportation Training & Education Center (TTEC) within the Louisiana Transportation Research Center (LTRC), introduced himself along with Sandy Romero, a training program manager. He explained that the National Highway Institute has just designated them as a tier II UTC and they recently moved into their state-of-the-art facility that provides Webinar and distance learning capabilities. LTRC is looking to hire a transportation librarian in the next few months.

WisDOT – John Cherney announced that WisDOT will host a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new iCommons on April 16, 2007. As the highest-profile event ever for the library, the lobby-level facility has doubled the size of the original space. Ann Pahnke announced that a Research & Library Committee has also been launched which is comprised of administrators throughout the department. In addition, some new staff has just been hired in the research unit.

TDOT – Ruth Letson continues to pursue adding a module to her Sydney Plus system but experienced a delay due to a lost purchase request. She will attend the Tennessee Library Association meeting April 17 – 20, 2007 and has also put in a travel request for the 2007 Denver SLA meeting, June 3 – 6, 2007.

MtDOT – Lisa Autio indicated she won't attend SLA this year. She is working on desktop publishing programs to produce newsletter articles and brochures on library/research topics. Lisa continues to work on the anomalies of the cataloging system but is enjoying increased patronage as word continues to spread about library services.

PennDOT– Though Cheryl Bodan will also not attend SLA, a research administrator will be there on behalf of PennDOT. Cheryl plans to retire at the end of the year and expressed concern over possible reorganization plans that would preempt hiring her replacement. TAC members offered to send her advocacy resources to help substantiate the importance of having a transportation librarian at PennDOT. John Cherney offered to write a letter on behalf of MTKN.

WsDOT – Steve Cochran said he is in the process of tying up loose ends before his departure May 4, 2007. WsDOT has plans for Library Week and he has also been working on a database of the various awards garnered by WsDOT within the transportation sector. Additionally, he and his staff are compiling portfolios on briefing papers that span a variety of topics. The new format will allow for easier search ability. Steve's boss, Leni Oman, has reissued a job announcement and hopes to be interviewing for his replacement in early April.

KDOT – Marie Manthe reported that she received official word that KDOT will be continuing in the extension of the pooled fund study. She spoke to Ken Winter, VDOT, about the project and is attending a local Kansas librarian conference next month while also continuing to work on day-to-day projects. .

ODOT – Laura Wilt said that she, too, will be at the SLA conference but will attend a regional library conference next month. She continues to pursue grant funding for a historic photo digitization project and is making progress with the ongoing cataloging of resources.

OhDOT – Caitlin McKee participated on behalf of Janet Bix who is on medical leave indefinitely.

NTL – Amanda Wilson joined the teleconference after returning from a Bureau of Transportation Statistics leadership meeting. It was announced this morning that the U.S. DOT Library will become a part of BTS and will now work more closely with the NTL to streamline services.

Mn/DOT – Jerry Baldwin also joined the teleconference. He is involved with a staffing analysis being conducted by the Department of Administration. Plans to celebrate the Mn/DOT Library's 50th anniversary are on hold.

II. Housekeeping

Minutes – The TAC approved the January 17, 2007 meeting [minutes](#).

III. Pooled fund extension through 2009

Four states (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas, Pennsylvania) have formally recommitted through the Transportation Pooled Fund Web site to extend the study through 2009. Goals and deliverables have been discussed by Ann Pahnke, Pat Casey, Maggie Sacco, John Cherney and Christi Powers. The tiered participation platform will change and a new scope will be drafted. Ann indicated there is enough interest to proceed with an emphasis on forming and supporting regional knowledge networks. Both the northeast and southeast library regions have expressed interest in starting a TKN. The Western Transportation Knowledge Network (WTKN) is gaining momentum but will undergo a change in leadership when Steve Cochran leaves WsDOT. The Midwest Transportation Knowledge Network (MTKN), which will co-host its 2007 annual meeting with the pooled fund study, has expressed a need for support and sustained funding. Ann suggested that states think about using the pooled fund as a funding mechanism for these and related projects.

Similar to a panel presentation at the 2006 Transportation Pooled Fund Study [annual meeting](#), Ruth Letson suggested a “Connecting the D.O.T.s” approach to give structure and definition to a national TKN while forming regional library networks. Discussion ensued about the timing being good for TKN formation, extension of the study, and the business plan that will result from NCHRP 20-75.

IV. Western Transportation Knowledge Network (WTKN)

Steve Cochran said that the February 28, 2007 teleconference had 20 participants from 11 states that are within AASHTO Region 4. This included representatives from state DOTs, university transportation libraries, and transit agencies. There was wide-ranging discussion that can be viewed from the [minutes](#). Also, WTKN [organizational documents](#) were posted on the library pooled fund blog for comment and revisions. It was discussed that the SLA/GTRIC meeting might be a good forum for face-to-face meetings, however, most WTKN business will be teleconferenced. The pooled fund study underwrote the costs for the February 28 and upcoming April 11, 2007 teleconferences.

V. 2007 annual meeting/advocacy initiatives/Library Week and individual TAC teleconferences

2007 annual meeting - Christi Powers reported that contracts have been executed on behalf of the pooled fund and MTKN for the four-day annual meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. The meeting will be conducted at the UW-Madison [Pyle Center](#) and a block of 20 rooms has been reserved at the adjacent UW-[Lowell Center](#). Located in the heart of [campus](#) along Lake Mendota, the meeting will allow for Web casting and Web conferencing capabilities to include national participants and panelists. A draft agenda will be reviewed at the next TAC teleconference. Christi welcomes input, ideas and suggestions and will generate a one-page

flyer to send to TAC members in early May. Many agreed there should be an emphasis on discussion of regional TKNs.

Advocacy initiatives – Discussion and a teleconference has taken place with Bob Cullen, AASHTO Information Services Manager. He, along with Leni Oman and Ken Kobetsky, are advising a subcommittee (Jerry Baldwin, Steve Cochran, Arlene Mathison, Christi Powers, Maggie Sacco and Amanda Wilson) about steps toward forming an AASHTO RAC Knowledge Management Special Task Group. A charter has been drafted and circulated. Next steps will include asking AASHTO RAC officers to review the proposal. This task force would have similar mission and goals to the TRB LIST committee. Christi will provide the TAC with updates as they become available.

Library Week – Since several TAC members are attending regional library conferences during National Library Week, April 16 – 20, 2007, there were only a few requests for Library Week materials. WisDOT will use a “Top Ten” brochure for its ribbon-cutting ceremony. The Wisconsin Transportation Center ordered flyers and bookmarks. The American Library Association has a new theme this year: “[Come Together @ Your Library.](#)”

VI. OCLC year II subscriptions/collection analysis/Google Meta-Search

OCLC - Maggie has arranged for OCLC subscription renewals through the various regional providers. Total cost, which included an annual four percent increase assessed by OCLC, is \$13,673.26. This includes unlimited WorldCat and TLCat subscriptions. WiLs and OCLC’s Kate Vincent have been helpful in streamlining the process. Next up will be June renewal for catalogue, resource sharing and access fees. Maggie will provide updates as they become available.

As for the OCLC [collection analysis tool](#), Maggie has heard dissatisfaction among “Big 10” libraries that purchased an earlier version of the product. A teleconference with OCLC representatives Rob Ross, Kate Vincent and Glenda Lammers revealed that a product update is under way. However, cost continues to be a factor at \$1,500 per library (coop licenses come in groups of five). With TAC consensus, this tool might be an option to consider among goals/deliverables during the 2007-09 project phase. Maggie stated that this tool has features for data collection, ILL statistics, and allows for downloading to Excel spreadsheet format. The snapshot feature allows libraries to evaluate their own collection, identify gaps and strengths, and to provide benchmark comparisons with other libraries.

Google Meta-Search tool – Maggie is the transportation pooled fund study representative for this state-DOT Google [search](#) engine. Developed by Michel Wendt at Washington DOT, links to this (and other other meta-search engines) are located on the pooled fund [Web](#) site and [NTL](#) home pages.

VI. Close

The next teleconference is slated for Wednesday, May 2 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 CDT.