

Transportation Library Connectivity

Pooled Fund Study - TPF-5(105) Teleconference – August 31, 2005 -10 a.m. to 12 noon CST

Participants: Nina McLawhorn, WisDOT; Jerry Baldwin, Minnesota DOT; Cheryl Bodan, PennDOT; John Cherney, WisDOT; Dustin Brinton-Wilson, Penn DOT; Ruth Letson (TDOT); Marie Manthe, Kansas DOT; Leni Oman, Washington DOT; Ruth Letson (TDOT); Laura Wilt, Oregon DOT; John Glaze, Christi Powers, staff.

I. Round-robin Updates

Nina McLawhorn reported that WisDOT is undergoing reorganization. Her new section, Research and Communication Services Section will move to the 8th floor in several weeks as it also spearheads Web redesign and departmental strategic planning initiatives.

Leni Oman reported that WDOT is continuing librarian interviews and is investigating the possibility of a new library information specialist position. She has been working other sections in the department (IT and communications) to promote the value of library and information services.

Marie Manthe, KDOT, indicated a summer intern who had helped with cataloging backlogged items onto the OCLC system has now left but made significant progress.

Laura Wilt, ODOT, reported that her unit has an interim director. Current projects include indexing and cataloging historic photos and other internal documents. The department is looking at distance-learning options.

Jerry Baldwin, MnDOT, continues to examine the implications of the recent reauthorization of SAFE-TEA-LU (Highway Bill H.R.3). He reported that the National Transportation Library (NTL) took a budget cut but remains in the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. A possibility exists for the NTL to be housed within U.S. DOT. Discussions are underway with officials from the Research & Innovative Technology Agency (RITA) on this matter.

Janet Bix, Ohio DOT, reported they have renegotiated a contract with full membership through OhioNet to access OCLC cataloging services. Their annual fee increased nearly 3 percent to \$4,475. She also reported that they are hiring two MLS student interns to help with cataloging.

Ruth Letson's assistant, Rebecca, conveyed that TDOT is working with the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET) to learn more about TLCat and to enhance its interlibrary loan access. Library staff is reviewing options to upgrade their Sydney-Plus system.

Dustin Brinton-Wilson introduced himself and Cheryl Bodan. He indicated that the PennDOT library has moved under the research section. Work has begun on a new cataloging system to facilitate OCLC compatibility. PennDOT's library will hire an intern to help with surplus indexing and cataloging.

Jason Bittner, Midwest Regional University Transportation Center (MRUTC), introduced himself indicating the center was one of 10 national UTCs. MRUTC has previously partnered in efforts to host a library peer exchange conference in Madison, Wisconsin in 2002.

II. Review and Approve

The June 15, 2005 teleconference minutes were approved pending updates to the TAC contact list that will now include mailing information.

III. Knowledge & Library Connectivity Conference, October 19 to 21, 2005

TAC members reviewed and discussed first-draft agendas for the conference. It was concluded that the agenda needs to have time slots to identify costs, determine specific technical library needs, to develop deliverables, and draft a project timeline.

TAC members were asked to bring two lists to the conference; one for technical library needs and a list of ideas or samples for marketing/outreach tools and strategies.

The process on Request for Proposal (RFP) review will be determined by the number of proposals submitted. The deadline to submit proposals for both RFPs (technical and administrative/marketing services) is September 1, 2005. TAC members will receive copies of the proposals and instructions for scoring them.

IV. Travel Reimbursements

TAC members were asked to review procedures and use an expense template to track expenditures. MRUTC offered to coordinate with the Midwest Transportation Knowledge Network (MTKN), which is co-hosting the conference, to arrange for blanket conference registration for all TAC members. Expenses for the conference are to be paid directly by each TAC member state. Invoices can then be submitted to WisDOT (via John Glaze) for reimbursement after the conference.

V. Updates/Next Steps

An update was provided by Nina McLawhorn on the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Research Advisory Committee's (RAC) conference in North Carolina, August 1 – 4, 2005. She indicated the *“Information and Knowledge Management: Strategic Resources for State DOTs”* panel presentation was well received and helped achieve better recognition of the value of libraries and information services. WisDOT, WDOT and Montana DOT will work together on submitting an NCHRP proposal that would provide an overview of transportation information management policy recommendations. The deadline for submission is September 15, 2005.

Leni Oman indicated that the Transportation Research Board (TRB) policy study committee *“Future Strategy for Transportation Information Management”* had concluded its third meeting in Washington, DC earlier this month. Committee members will review a draft report and submit suggestions for final publication this fall.

The next teleconference will be scheduled when the RFP submission process is finished. It will be determined then whether TAC members can select vendors via teleconference or in person at the Knowledge & Library Connectivity Conference.