

**Traffic Safety Culture Transportation Pooled-Fund (TSC-TPF) Program**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Location: Western Transportation Institute - Bozeman, MT**

**Attendees:**

Steve Albert/WTI	Jim Hollis/TX DOT
Marcee Allen/FHWA- MT	John Moffat/NHTSA
Audrey Allums/MT DOT	Scott Jones/UT DOT
Gina Beretta/NTHSA	Joe Ouellette/CT DOT
Kris Christensen/MT DOT	Jennene Ring/WA DOT
Dortha Cummins/LA Center for Transportation Safety	Joshua Ross/IN Criminal Justice Institute
Steve Gent/IA DOT	Sue Sillick/MT DOT
Kelly Green/CHSC-WTI	John Tomlinson/ITD
Tim Harmon/NH DOT	Nic Ward/CHSC-WTI
Matt Hansen/Caltrans	

**Action items are in red and bolded.**

**MDT Project Website:** <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/research/projects/trafficsafety.shtml>

**TPF Website:** <http://pooledfund.org/Details/Study/558>

**Housekeeping**

- Welcome and introductions- Everyone introduced themselves and indicated which agency they represent. The director of the Western Transportation Institute (WTI), Steve Albert, provided a welcome to the TSC TPF Pooled Fund and briefly discussed the work that is being conducted at WTI as well as reviewed WTI's new center designations. WTI was recently named the National Center for Rural Road Safety. To learn more about the national center, please visit [www.ruralsafetycenter.org](http://www.ruralsafetycenter.org).
- Changes to the agenda- No changes
- Corrections to/approval of May meeting notes- No corrections to the meeting notes were made. All Board members present approved the meeting notes.

**TPF FFY 2015 Update; Looking Forward to FFY 2016-** Contributions, Expenditures and Funding Transfers

Sue reviewed the September financial report with the Board, e-mailed to the Board on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Sue will distribute an updated financial report for each quarterly meeting.

**Revisit management plan**

Sue stated that WTI developed the draft management plan for the pooled fund about a year ago. At the time, the Board did not formally approve it. Sue would like to revisit this management plan, update it, and determine if the Board would like to act upon it. Attendees went through the plan page by page.

In regards to quality project documents, Sue suggested the pooled fund consider inviting others as peer reviewers of proposals and deliverables. Nic stated this process is common in their current projects. They have national experts review drafts of deliverables. This is their preferred method for review rather than sending a task report to anyone interested in the work. Oftentimes, Nic is asked to do this in return for other research projects. Audrey liked the idea of peer review and would like to request a list of peer reviewers from WTI, the Board members, NHTSA, and a survey of public entities.

**WTI will put together a list of possible peer reviewers and share with the Board members for modifications.**

**Based on this discussion, Sue will send a revised management plan to the group.**

#### **RFP – Issue or not? If so, for what?**

Sue explained the history behind this discussion. Originally, the Board discussed issuing an RFQ to see what other project ideas and researchers were available. This would generate a list of potential research topics as well as other contributors for research. This would help the Board determine if WTI possesses the skill sets and time to complete a research project, and if not, who else is available to do the work. The discussion morphed to include what other individuals/organizations perform this kind of research, what the research gaps are, and what are other people's costs as well as providing more information on other research entities. Sue asked the Board to discuss the RFP process in more detail and make a decision to either issue or not.

The group decided to issue an RFI/Q to identify potential peer reviewers and research gaps. **Sue will draft something.** However, in order to do so, the Board will need a clear definition of traffic safety culture. Part of NCHRP 17:69, is to define TSC. **Nic will ask their program officer if he is able to share the definition at this point in time.**

List of groups to reach out to

- DOTs
- Traffic Safety Commissions
- Governor's highway safety commission (Audrey)
- Review of states' safety plans to see if TSC needs are present
- NHTSA – Jeff Michaels?

Sue summarized that the Board has decided to issue an RFI to collect additional research ideas and keep WTI as the principal research entity. All research would go to them first. If they do not have the time or skill set to complete a specific project then the Board would look at a different agency. The Board will not issue an RFP. Sue also stated that the list would help to identify peer reviewers. It was suggested that the RFI include an option for folks to indicate whether or not they would like to be peer reviewers on research projects for the pooled fund. These changes will be added to the management plan along with the peer reviewer requirement.

## **Travel Requests**

The Board believes that research should be the priority and travel should be secondary. They would like to continue to approve on a case-by-case basis. Any requests for travel will be brought to the Board and they will vote on their merit. If travel requests become excessive, the Board should revisit this in a year.

## **Review of Deliverables**

Sue has been sending draft deliverables like quarterly progress reports (QPR) and research project task reports to interested parties in addition to the Board – the entire TSC-TPF distribution list.

### **Actions regarding review of deliverables: (Sue)**

- 1. Continue to distribute to interested parties list,**
- 2. add comment to email about not distributing,**
- 3. screen comments through Sue,**
- 4. any late comments won't affect due dates of the contractor, and**
- 5. confirm who would like to be on the list.**

## **Cannabis Project**

Jay Otto, Research Scientist/Manager with the Center for Health and Safety Culture, presented information about the Driving Under the Influence of Cannabis project which included a review of the project schedule, discussion regarding comments on the literature review, discussion of survey development, and review of next steps. The presentation is posted to the MDT project website and can be viewed at [http://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/webdata/external/research/docs/research\\_proj/tsc/8882-309-02\\_CANNABIS\\_USE\\_SEPT\\_2015\\_UPDATE.pdf](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/webdata/external/research/docs/research_proj/tsc/8882-309-02_CANNABIS_USE_SEPT_2015_UPDATE.pdf).

### **Review of today's agenda and to do items**

**Sue reviewed today's agenda and made sure the Board did not have any other questions. She then reviewed a list of to-do items generated from today:**

- 1. Add travel contract to the budget spreadsheet,**
- 2. rework the management plan using meeting notes and Kris's changes,**
- 3. reach out to the "interested parties" list to determine if they are still interested in remaining on the distribution list,**
- 4. develop the lists- peer reviewers,**
- 5. prepare an RFI/RFQ, and**
- 6. compile comments on task 1 report and send to Nic.**

**Audrey had two items she would like to make sure were added to the management plan: 1) requirement of peer reviewers and 2) documentation of project selection from this past year. She also added that they will need a definition of TSC for the RFI. Nic stated that he would follow up with NCHRP to see if he can share that definition.**

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**Traffic Safety Citizenship Update**

Nic Ward, Director, and Kari Finley, Behavioral Scientist, with the Center for Health and Safety Culture, presented information about the Traffic Safety Citizenship project which included: a review of the project purpose and schedule, brief overview of the literature review, and discussion of survey development (3 phases). The presentation can be found on the MDT project website at [http://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/webdata/external/research/docs/research\\_proj/tsc/8882-309-03\\_SAFETY\\_CITIZENSHIP\\_SEPT\\_2015\\_UPDATE.pdf](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/webdata/external/research/docs/research_proj/tsc/8882-309-03_SAFETY_CITIZENSHIP_SEPT_2015_UPDATE.pdf).

**TraSaCu Update and Visit with Susanne Kaiser, Austria**

Unfortunately, Susanne was out sick on Tuesday September 29<sup>th</sup> and unable to present to the Board. However, she provided Nic and Kelly with her presentation slides which Nic shared with the group. The presentation can be found at [http://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/webdata/external/research/docs/research\\_proj/tsc/KFV\\_TraSaCu\\_SK\\_0925.pdf](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/webdata/external/research/docs/research_proj/tsc/KFV_TraSaCu_SK_0925.pdf).

**Other Related Efforts Update**

Nic Ward, Director of the Center for Health and Safety Culture, presented information about other related TSC efforts which included a review of the following projects:

- *NCHRP 17:69- A Strategic Approach to Transforming Traffic Safety Culture to Reduce Deaths and Injuries*
- *NCHRP Domestic Scan 14:03- Successful Approaches for the Development of an Organization-Wide Safety Culture on Transportation Agencies*
- *National Center for Rural Road Safety*

- *Minnesota TSC Survey*
- *TZD Conference*
- The journal on *Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behaviour* has published a section on Traffic Safety Culture which was co-written by Nic. The link to the article can be found in the presentation.
  
- Other related efforts covered during Nic's presentation were:
  - *Together for Life*
  - *ITD- Impaired Driving*
  - *WV Underage Drinking*
  - *Clackamas County, OR*
  - *TraSaCu- [www.tracsacu.edu](http://www.tracsacu.edu)*
  - *Traffic Safety Culture- Theory, Measurement and Application (Edited Book)*

The presentation can be found at

[http://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/webdata/external/research/docs/research\\_proj/tsc/2015-9\\_RELATED EffORTS UPDATE.pdf](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/webdata/external/research/docs/research_proj/tsc/2015-9_RELATED EffORTS UPDATE.pdf).

Nic was interested to hear from the Board about other related TSC efforts they knew about.

Audrey discussed the work NHSTA and GHSA are doing. NCREP has 2 million dollars to conduct research projects. The monies are put forth by each state and NCREP works with NHTSA to fund four or five projects per year.

Nic discussed another cannabis project in which they are involved. It is an informal project with Pacific Institute for research and Evaluation (PIRE). PIRE is testing bodily fluids of drivers in WA to detect drugs and completing a roadside follow-up survey.

Audrey wondered about the Utah project. In Utah they recently passed a primary seatbelt law.

Dortha mentioned they are conducting a research project in LA to investigate factors influencing seatbelt usage. Nic thought it would be interesting to see how it relates to the MN DOT survey and contributing factors.

### **New Project Ideas**

Nic commented that there will be research project ideas that will naturally follow the current projects. These ideas will be included in the final report as recommendations. One strategy is to extend the current projects to include additional sub groups, more samples, and implementation and evaluation of strategies. The Board could use the four years to fully evolve the research to an applied end. Another idea is to develop a standard TSC survey/tool that all states could use and implement. Kelly mentioned this would help create a national database of TSC behaviors similar to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). His third idea was to return to the original project submission and reconsider traffic safety culture among teen drivers.

Audrey wondered how to use a cultural approach to address lane departure. Kelly explained that the ITD impaired driving project started out as a single vehicle run-off road crashes project.

Audrey stated that there could be a project about culture of motorcycle riders. Nic mentioned it would be interesting to study the culture of helmet wearing.

John mentioned that distracted driving is a hot topic right now and thought addressing it could potentially bring in other states, but is perplexed about on what to focus. He agreed with Audrey's earlier comment about distracted driving can mean a lot of different things i.e. texting, talking, eating, drinking, etc. Dortha agreed there is not a lot of good data on distracted driving and much of it is self-report data.

A project on teen driver culture was proposed as a first year project.

Tim mentioned that older drivers or medically at risk people in their family have been a topic in NH. Nic commented that the culture toward older drivers and the culture around the people related to help them give up driving could be a very interesting project.

Tim would be interested in research on occupant protection or older drivers. He knows that other people in his Department have more specific ideas and he will send these to the group.

Steve Gent thought it would be interesting to take the citizenship research project to an implementation level and potentially be able to measure the differences between the safety cultures of states. He also thought it would be great to get Nic in front of state CEOs to discuss the topic more. Joe mentioned that the annual AASHTO committee meeting would be a good venue.

Audrey stated that there is cannabis use in every state, and there would be value in growing the cannabis project.

Tim would also be interested in expanding the cannabis research to look at prescription drugs and other illicit drugs. This is a big problem in his state. He imagines continuing the same type of research as the cannabis project but for other drugs.

Kelly mentioned a potential research project on understanding the culture of driving after drinking and drug use.

Steve Gent is interested in a research project to develop a national campaign, understand the feasibility of a national campaign compared to a local campaign, and compare a national campaign to a local campaign to determine which would be more effective.

Tim would like to complete an implementation project. Nic stated that he is confident in the next year they will have implementation project ideas that are generated from the findings of the first two research projects.

Joe thought it would be great to be able to discuss the implementation projects and share the results of formative research with other DOTs to get them to join the pooled fund.

Tim stated what they could really use is a group that could develop effective surveys.

Joe asked if creating a standardized survey would be cost effective.

### **Management Support Proposal**

Sue reminded the Board that the current contract ends on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 and wanted feedback from WTI and the Board on how the first year went.

Nic commented that the uncertainty of their role was odd. Since that has been clarified today they feel it will be very helpful moving forward. He also mentioned that the monthly meetings with Sue have been helpful.

CHSC stated they could have a revised proposal for the support contract to the program manger to review in about two weeks.

### **Recurring Quarterly Meeting Schedule, Next Meeting 11/18/15, and Meet @ TRB Annual Meeting (Requests due 11/17/15)**

Sue asked for feedback on the meeting schedule. Audrey believes quarterly meetings are sufficient. Joe stated that it was helpful to schedule quarterlies in advance. Sue stated that they are currently held the third Wednesday during the month.

### **Next Steps**

**Kelly will compile meeting notes and send to Sue to distribute as well as the presentations, proposal and quarterly report.**

**Board members will submit their travel reimbursement requests to the Center as soon as possible.**

**MDT will make revisions to the management plan based on the meeting notes and share with Board members for approval. It was mentioned that MDT needs to make sure the addition of peer reviewers is added to the management proposal. Nic will nominate 1 or 2 peer reviewers as each final deliverable is submitted.**