

## **Asphalt Research Consortium**

RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING: March 31, 2007

### **Progress This Quarter**

The Asphalt Research Consortium (aka Consortium) was signed into contract on December 26, 2006 between the FHWA and Western Research Institute (WRI) as the prime contractor. The contract specified that WRI was not allowed to enter into any subawards with the Consortium partners, Texas A&M University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Nevada Reno, and Advanced Asphalt Technologies. The sub-awards were not allowed because there was additional cost and pricing information required from the Consortium partners. Most of the effort by WRI and the Consortium partners during the quarter was devoted to acquiring and providing the necessary cost and pricing information.

On March 19, 2007 WRI received authorization from FHWA to proceed with subcontracts with the University of Nevada Reno and Advanced Asphalt Technologies. The subcontracts with these two partners were signed on March 22 and March 27, 2007, respectively.

On April 9, 2007, after this reporting quarter was completed, WRI received authorization to subcontract with Texas A&M University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The subcontracts with these two partners were signed on April 23 and April 20, 2007, respectively.

Other progress for this quarter included the following activities:

#### **Meetings to interact with stakeholders**

The all or some of the Consortium research team attended the following meetings;

1. TRB meeting- (January 21- 25<sup>th</sup>). Attended the Bituminous Committees' meetings for AFK20, AFK30, and AFK40. Feedback regarding the most important research problem statements was collected.
2. WRI-Project review panel meeting – (January 26<sup>th</sup>).
3. Binder, Mixture, and Modeling ETGs meetings – (February 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>) – Participated in presentations and discussions of consortium related issues.
4. AAPT Annual Conference – (March 12<sup>th</sup> – March 14<sup>th</sup>) – Attended presentations and workshops.

#### **Activities related to Subcontracts, Meetings, and Preparation of Work Plans**

Consortium personnel prepared presentations and presented information on anticipated work plans to the Binder, Mixture, and Models Expert Task Group meetings in Phoenix, Arizona during the week of February 5<sup>th</sup>.

WRI and Consortium partners prepared detailed responses to questions received from the FHWA contracting office and submitted them to the FHWA contracting office as requested.

The Consortium members and their staffs also performed various activities to prepare for preparation of detailed work plans in the seven areas of Consortium research, Moisture Damage, Fatigue, Engineered Paving Materials, Vehicle-Pavement Interaction, Validation, Technology Development, and Technology Transfer.

### **Work Planned for Next Quarter**

The Consortium members will attend the “kickoff” meeting with FHWA Co-AOTR’s, Jack Youtcheff and Eric Weaver in Reno, Nevada on April 24 – 26. The meeting is to discuss the Consortium Strategic Plan, the proposed research plans, the delivery date of the detailed work plans, and the stakeholder work plan review schedule.

The Consortium members and staffs will prepare detailed work plans for the work elements that are planned to commence in the first year. It should be noted that the first year work will only be about six months because of the need to prepare annual work plans based upon the contract date of December 26.

The Consortium members will commence work if the approval of work plans is obtained prior to June 30.

### **Problems and Solutions to Problems**

None at this time.

### **Support of FHWA/DOT Strategic Goals**

The work planned by Consortium supports the five FHWA Focus Areas and the Strategic Goals.