

Is there a pooled fund time period or expiration?

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- The FHWA Pooled Fund Program Procedures note that “The target duration of a Pooled Fund Project should not exceed **5 years**. If the project has a viable reason to extend beyond five years, the project should be closed and a new Pooled Fund Project established to continue the research”.
- The current iteration of Aurora has commitments ranging from 2014 – 2018 with the current project number 5(290) reaching the 5-year limit on May 31, 2019. Once that time frame has passed, the project will need to continue under a new number.
- The old project number will continue until the current contract requirements have been met, the final invoice paid, and the contracts closed. The old and new projects will run concurrently until the old project number can be closed.

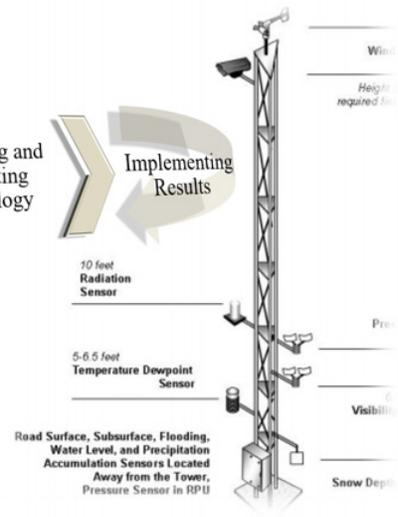


Aurora activities provide practical results in terms of



Deploying and Evaluating Technology

Implementing Results



Aurora

17

Who are the Aurora members?

- The Aurora Program is a partnership of **17 transportation agencies** that collaborate on **research, development, deployment, and advocacy** of road weather information systems (RWIS); the 2017 members include:
- Alaska, California, Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Ontario Ministry of Transportation



What is the focus for Aurora?



- Members of Aurora seek to **implement** advanced road weather information systems (RWIS) that fully **integrate** state-of-the-art roadway and weather **forecasting technologies** with coordinated, multi-agency weather **monitoring** infrastructures.
- Aurora's projects are designed to improve the **efficiency** of highway maintenance operations and **distribute** effective real-time information to travelers. These initiatives result in technological advancement and improvement of existing RWIS, significantly **reducing the adverse impacts of weather** on driving conditions.



- Aurora works closely with the **Federal Highway Administration**, having been approved for federal-aid research and development funds without state matching using **100 percent SP&R funding**.
- Aurora has a strong relationship with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and its Snow and Ice Pooled Fund Cooperative Program (SICOP). In addition, Aurora coordinates regularly with the American Meteorological Society (AMS), NOAA, NSSL, and the Clear Roads Pooled Fund.

What are some of the specific Aurora member benefits?

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Benefits



Aurora provides **benefits** and serves as the point of collaboration and focus for:

Members:

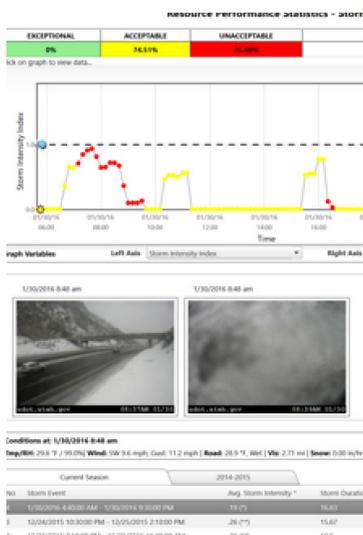
- Research **solutions** focused on immediate state needs
- White papers, survey results, and best practice reports
- State round robin **updates** among members
- Regular FHWA updates
- Positions and engagement with **national committees**
- **Collaboration** with advice on trouble shooting, managing data, informing the public
- Connected vehicle research and weather data needs
- **Advanced research** and blending of weather with operations and safety
- **RWIS staffing and management** perspective and support

Connecting with key organizations:

- **FHWA** Road Weather Management, **NOAA**, National Severe Storm Lab (NSSL)
- **AASHTO** SICOP, Clear Roads, and **TRB** and the surface transportation and weather related committees

Connecting with industry and researchers:

- **Friends of Aurora** (held every even year and includes research needs, new technologies, best practice, equipment reliability, trends, discussion with industry with 13 companies attending the last meeting)
- **National Winter Maintenance Peer Exchange** (held every odd year includes best practice among diverse groups, development of research needs, peer exchange on specific topics with 34 states attending the last meeting)
- **International Conferences & Workshops** on Winter Maintenance and Surface Transportation Weather
- **Webinars** (TRB, FHWA, AASHTO, ATSSA, ASCE)



Specific Aurora Goals and Objectives

- ✚ To improve **dissemination of road weather information** to transportation providers and end users, ultimately increasing safety by reducing potential weather-related incidents and improving transportation safety, reliability, and mobility in both urban and rural areas.



- Enhance and support the individual road and weather system deployment plans of Aurora Program participants.
 - Support the development and deployment of promising advanced technologies for use in road weather monitoring, forecasting, information exchange, and dissemination.
 - Contribute to activities which aim to integrate RWIS into the intelligent transportation systems (ITS) infrastructure
 - Actively support the Federal Highway Administration's road weather/weather-related initiatives.
 - Enhance the quality of information delivered to traffic operation centers.
 - Raise awareness of RWIS among the surface transportation community.
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- ✚ **To improve the efficiency of maintenance operations.**
 - Jointly pursue emerging road and weather project opportunities in areas of interest to the group's members.
 - Identify common development and evaluation needs within the group and to coordinate resulting technical activities.
 - Advocate implementation of its research findings into the day-to-day practices of road maintenance agencies by establishing and/or supporting RWIS-related standards.

✚ To aid in the development of technology that seamlessly integrate to facilitate the formation of partnerships maintenance operations and facilitate the dissemination of road weather information.

- Provide a mechanism to facilitate further regional and international project cooperation and technical information interchange so as to benefit all surface transportation modes.
- Actively support the activities of the Federal Highway Administration.

✚ To develop initiatives that assist public agencies in deploying RWIS technologies and methodologies.

- Facilitate the formation of partnerships addressing appropriate activities appropriate for each agency.
- Assist agencies in justification of RWIS through sharing experience.
- Provide guidance for the private sector.



✚ To encourage greater cooperation and information exchange between transportation agencies and the other agencies and groups.

- Coordinate with other agencies and groups conducting road and weather information work.

✚ To support development of expanded uses of RWIS technologies.

- Provide test beds in a variety of environments and locations for the evaluation of emerging RWIS technologies and standards.
- Support highway technologies in design, construction activities, traffic control and operations oversight.
- Support the use of road weather technologies in other maintenance activities such as spraying and pavement marking.
- Promote higher quality RWIS data and forecasting.

