SPR PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER:
00462

PROJECT TITLE:
Development of a Short Course entitled “Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices”

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
John McFadden
Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering
University of Alabama
Box 870205
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0205
(205) 348-0747
jmcfadden@coe.eng.ua.edu

Daniel Turner
Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering
The University of Alabama
Box 870205
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0205
(205)-348-9925
dturner@coe.eng.ua.edu

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:
The goal of this UTCA project is to develop a short course on the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The short course will be presented for transportation professionals in Alabama to provide them with an understanding of this important document.

PROJECT ABSTRACT:
This project will conduct a short course for transportation officials that will emphasize on the content, general provisions and specifications as included in the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The course will encompass two eight-hour days, and will initially be offered at three locations within the state (Tuscaloosa, Birmingham and Montgomery). The course will be geared toward transportation engineers, project managers and construction workers. Topics will be covered in ample detail to ensure the transfer of technology and resources to the students.

The following topics will be covered from the MUTCD:
Part I- General Provisions
Part II- Signs
Part III- Markings
Part IV- Signals
Part V- Islands
Part VI- Traffic Controls for Street and Highway Construction, Maintenance, Utility, and Emergency Operations
PROJECT TASK DESCRIPTIONS:
1) Develop course syllabi and schedule in consultation with the Alabama Department of Transportation and industry representatives.
2) Develop the course brochure and mailing list, and distribute it to ALDOT personnel, city and county transportation personnel, contractor personnel, and consultants.
3) Prepare and reproduce course materials with the assistance of graduate and undergraduate students.
4) Present course, with supplemental handouts.
5) The course will be evaluated, and a plan for subsequent course offerings to benefit Alabama transportation professionals and workers will be developed.

MILESTONES AND DATES:
Jan – Mar 2001: start initial consultations for the course development
Mar 2001: mail course brochure
Apr – May 2001: prepare course materials
May 2001: anticipated date for the course to be offered

TOTAL BUDGET:
Six-month project: ALDOT (SPR funds) $29,797; total budget $45,562.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT:
A graduate student will work on this project, especially on the development of the short course.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS:
This project will be developed and offered in a manner similar to other UTCA technology transfer projects; however, no other UTCA research projects been identified that are similar to this topic.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:
This project is a technology transfer project. Seminars will be given to ALDOT officials as part of the deliverable for this project.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:
This project has the potential to provide transportation professionals in Alabama with a timely explanation of the existing and new materials.

TRB KEYWORDS:
Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, highway construction, maintenance, utility, and emergency operations, railway-highway grade crossing.