RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER:
00469

PROJECT TITLE:
Statewide Public Transportation Needs Assessment

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
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PROJECT OBJECTIVE:
The objective of this project is to assess the additional resources required to provide incremental levels of increased urban and rural transit service in Alabama.

PROJECT ABSTRACT:
Alabama is underserved by both urban transit (principally buses servicing fixed routes) and rural transit (minivans and buses serving both fixed routes and demand-response travel). For example, 17 of 67 counties in Alabama currently have no rural transit systems receiving Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 funds. The proposed project will assess the resources required to improve transit service in Alabama. It is anticipated that at least three levels of increase will be studied: a vehicle modernization program, increased vehicle availability, and full coverage. This will provide planning and management data to help in planning future transit programs.

PROJECT TASK DESCRIPTIONS:
1) Organizational meeting
2) Information gathering phase
3) Identify and engage specialists for the study
4) Acquire and review data (MPO Transportation Improvement Plans and Long Range Transportation Plans, ridership statistics, fleet composition and age data, service agencies available, etc.)
5) Meet with selected transit providers
6) Project future needs
7) Coordinate with ALDOT Multimodal Bureau
8) Prepare final report

MILESTONES AND DATES:
Task 1: May 15, 2001
Task 2: May 16-30
Task 3: May 22-July 10
Task 4: May 22-June 8
Task 5: June 5 – June 26
Task 6: June 15-July 10
Task 7: May 22-July 10
Task 8: July 3-July 17, 2001

TOTAL BUDGET:
Alabama Department of Transportation: $64,966

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT:
Two graduate students will contribute to the research effort.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS:
This project is a natural extension of the activities conducted in UTCA project 99104, “An Analysis and Recommendations for Rural Public Transportation Systems in Alabama.”

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:
None are anticipated.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:
This project will provide an analysis of resources needed to enhance public transportation in Alabama. This is a basic tool needed in the planning and programming process.

TRB KEYWORDS:
Transit, intercity bus, rural public transportation