UTC PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER:
01110

PROJECT TITLE:
Alabama Transit – Intercity Bus Service Study

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
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PROJECT OBJECTIVES:
This project will evaluate intercity bus service in Alabama in terms of persons and cities served and in terms of the ease with which rural residents can travel to the starting point of bus service. It will also provide ALDOT with help in allocating federal transit funds.

PROJECT ABSTRACT:
The Alabama DOT Bureau of Multimodal Engineering oversees rural, urban, and intercity public transportation systems in Alabama. The proposed project work will provide an assessment of Alabama’s current intercity bus service and will supply ALDOT with data to help determine the optimal way to allocate the intercity bus portion of its federal funding. The project will involve an information-gathering stage where census data will be mined and where intercity bus company and Alabama Public Service Commission information will be obtained. Visits will be made to representative intercity bus terminals for examination of facilities and bus fleets. The project will conclude with an evaluation of intercity bus transportation in terms of locations and frequency of service, marketing efforts, coordination with rural transit providers, opportunities for enlarged service, and opportunities for bus subsidies.

PROJECT TASK DESCRIPTIONS:
1) Data gathering
2) Facilities and equipment site visits
3) Evaluation of intercity bus transportation in Alabama
4) Production of final report

MILESTONES AND DATES:
Phase 1 (Jan – Apr 2001): Begin project and perform Task 1.

TOTAL BUDGET:
One-year project: UTCA funds $36,222; total budget $72,670. Matching funds are provided by ALDOT SPR funds through a separate UTCA project (01452) created for that purpose.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT:
One graduate student and one undergraduate student will work on the project. One or more students from Geography will help produce graphics for the project.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS:
UTCA is working to perform multiple research projects in transit in Alabama. This project will be the fourth transit study since UTCA began operations. The other three UTCA projects (99104-“Analysis and Recommendation for Rural Public Transportation Systems in Alabama” by Lindly and Sanford, 00469-“Statewide Public Transportation Needs Assessment” by Lindly, and 01216-“Deploying Advanced Public Transportation in Birmingham” by Jones and Anderson) studied rural and urban transit systems.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:
Technology transfer will include distribution of the final report and potential presentations at meetings of the Alabama Transportation Planners Association, the Alabama Chapter of the American Planning Association, and the Alabama Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:
The proposed project will provide important information to ALDOT in its drive to upgrade funding for transit in Alabama. It will complete the evaluation of Alabama’s transit services started with UTCA’s “Needs Assessment” project and will aid ALDOT in determining how to allocate the intercity portion of its federal transit funds.

TRB KEYWORDS:
Transit, intercity bus, federal funding.