HPP PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER:
01225

PROJECT TITLE:
Multimodal Transportation Planning Needs Survey

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
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PROJECT OBJECTIVE:
The primary goal of the project is to survey and document the state-of-the-practice of multimodal/intermodal transportation planning in Alabama and to identify future needs (e.g., research, funding, staffing, and coordination among agencies). This will be accomplished through literature reviews and interaction with the Alabama Department of Transportation and other relevant agencies. The secondary goal is to introduce students to the many aspects of multimodal transportation planning and operations. This will be accomplished by involving students in the research components of the project and the development of a Multimodal Transportation course to be offered in Fall 2002.

PROJECT ABSTRACT:
The movement of people and freight throughout Alabama is accomplished by several modes: rail, inland waterways, air, transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, intermodal facilities, and, of course, roads and highways. The project will facilitate the coordination among State and local agencies charged with addressing multimodal/intermodal transportation issues. The project will survey recent literature as well as multimodal/intermodal transportation planning practices from other states. The information will be synthesized and its relevance to Alabama documented. The project will identify new multimodal/intermodal transportation research needs and provide guidance toward addressing some of the multimodal/intermodal transportation issues raised in the 2000 Alabama Statewide Transportation Plan. The project will also result in a new course, Multimodal Transportation, to be offered in the course at UAB and possibly UA and UAH via the Intercampus Interactive Telecommunications System (IITS).

PROJECT TASK DESCRIPTIONS:
1. Identify key ALDOT, local planning organizations and other transportation agency (e.g., Alabama State Port Authority) personnel to provide input and guidance on rail, ports & waterways, air, highway, and other multimodal transportation planning issues.
2. Review the Statewide Transportation Plan and other multimodal planning documents (e.g., Rail Plan Updates).
3. Inventory ISTEA, TEA-21, and other Alabama-related items in relevant federal transportation programs.
4. Inventory multimodal transportation data sources throughout the State.
5. Inventory existing relationships among relevant agencies and organizations.
6. Inventory existing intermodal connections in Alabama.
7. Inventory statewide and multimodal transportation planning practices and issues from other states.
8. Identify multimodal/intermodal issues common to Alabama and other states.
9. Develop a resource paper (similar to the “Needs” documentation presented in TRB Research Circulars) that identifies key short-term and long-term multimodal/intermodal issues and research needs.
10. Develop Multimodal Transportation course materials and seek review and comment from individuals identified in Task #1.
11. Work with the UAB and IITS (and other campuses) to establish and promote Multimodal Transportation course for Fall 2002.
12. Summarize all project efforts in a final report for submittal to the UTCA.

MILESTONES AND DATES:
1. Aug-Sep 2001
2. Aug-Nov 2001
3. Aug-Nov 2001
4. Sep-Dec 2001
5. Sep-Dec 2001
8. Jan-Apr 2002
9. Apr-May 2002
10. Jan-June 2002
11. Sep 2001-May 2002
12. Apr-Aug 2002
13. Apr-Aug 2002

TOTAL BUDGET:
One-year project: other (HPP) $29,779; total budget $59,562.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT
One graduate student and one undergraduate student from the CEE Department at UAB will be involved in this study.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS:
There are currently no UTCA projects that explicitly address multimodal/intermodal transportation planning issues and research needs. The proposed project will be a unique
contribution among the many accomplishments of the UTCA and supports its focus on system management and technology transfer.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:
The results of the project will be available as an information resource for transportation professionals and policy makers from ALDOT, local planning organizations, as well as private organizations involved in multimodal/intermodal transportation issues. The primary resource will be the final UTCA report. It is also proposed that an informal briefing of the project results be conducted at the ALDOT central office for Multimodal Bureau and related entities. The new course developed under the proposed project will result in a continued transfer of the information and interest derived from the project.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:
The primary benefit of the project will be the survey and documentation of the state-of-the-practice of multimodal/intermodal transportation planning in Alabama and to identify future needs (e.g., research, funding, staffing, and coordination among agencies). The project will complement the needs assessment conducted for the 2000 Statewide Transportation Plan Update particularly by focusing on research needs. It will also identify and integrate the needs of local planning agencies and agencies representing specific modes (e.g., Alabama Department of State Docks). The primary goal will be accomplished through literature reviews and interaction with the ALDOT and other relevant agencies. In doing so, the proposed project will assist ALDOT in establishing a statewide intermodal systems working group as recommended in the Statewide Transportation Plan Update.

The secondary benefit will be the introduction of students to the many aspects of multimodal transportation planning and operations. The second goal will be achieved through involving students in the research components of the project and through the development of a Multimodal Transportation course to be offered in Fall 2002 at UAB and possibly to UA and UAH via the IITS.

TRB KEYWORDS:
Multimodal, Intermodal, Planning, Education, Technology transfer