PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER:
01470

PROJECT TITLE:
Pilot Project to Create an Integrated Traffic Safety Information Infrastructure

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:
David B. Brown
Computing and Information Division
Engineering Research Laboratory
The University of Alabama
Box 870290
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0290
(205) 348-6363
(205) 348-0219
brown@cs.ua.edu

Allen Parrish
Computer Science Department
P O Box 870290
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487
(205) 348-3749
(205) 348-0219 fax
parrish@cs.ua.edu

Brandon Dixon
Computer Science Department
P O Box 870290
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487
(205) 348-0597
(205) 348-0219 fax
dixon@cs.ua.edu

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:
The objective of this project is to continue the move toward electronic reporting of traffic crash related information, by developing additional core support, and by conducting pilot projects at the Alabama Department of Public Safety, other agencies, and municipalities.

PROJECT ABSTRACT:
Alabama has embarked on a number of initiatives to implement its Strategic Plan for Traffic Safety Information Systems. The first steps were the modification and automation of the citation and crash report forms to prepare them for automated data entry. Both of these projects are
underway, and this current research will provide the necessary follow-on work to dovetail those projects into the overall scheme.

This project concentrates upon infrastructure issues that must be resolved. Data entry software must be acquired or developed to allow use of e-forms (on-line, electronic entry of data from law enforcement officers’ vehicles or from office computers). Additional infrastructure will be needed to transmit the forms electronically, to receive them, and to process them. It will also be necessary to integrate the on-line version of the form with on-going operations, because for some duration both paper copies and electronic copies of the form will be flowing—and the system can not stop operation for six months while the changes are made and tested. Consequently, major efforts must be devoted to developing the needed infrastructure, and further efforts must be devoted to working with individual users (on a pilot basis) to ensure that the system is operable, before the “switch is flipped” to convert the entire system.

PROJECT TASK DESCRIPTIONS:
1. Basic Systems Analysis, Design and Development
2. Demonstration Project Software/Hardware Infrastructure Support
3. Training and Facilitation
4. Evaluation of Results

MILESTONES AND DATES:
• Oct 1, 2001 – Initiate systems analysis.
• Jan 1, 2002 – Begin design and development of data entry software.
• Apr 1, 2002 – Select tentative locations for pilot studies. Specify, select, and order hardware necessary for pilot site work.
• Jul 1, 2002 – Develop list of activities needed to evaluate and assure pilot project success.
• Sep 30, 2002 – Implement data entry software. Acquire or develop network and transmission software. Prepare training materials for pilot sites.
• Jan 1, 2003 – Initiate training as needed at pilot sites.
• Apr 1, 2003 – Initiate pilot test. Monitor results and provide technical support.
• Aug 1, 2003 – Evaluate project, recommend next steps, and document the project.
• Sep 30, 2003 – Conclude project.

TOTAL BUDGET:
Two-year project:  Alabama Administrative Office of Courts $400,000

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT:
No direct involvement of students is anticipated.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS:
This project is a continuation and expansion of several UTCA projects. Two of these are particularly appropriate: 00476 - “Modification of AUTAR & Supporting System Studies,” and 01469 - “Development of the LESIS Strategic Plan.”

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:
A major component of this project is an on-going training effort, to acquaint users at pilot test sites with the operation and capabilities of the proposed traffic safety information system.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:
The overall concept of an online traffic information system offers enormous potential for reducing workload and increasing effectiveness. This project can reduce the time to implementation for the system, improve the “switchover” process, and decrease the errors in the conversion to the new system.

TRB KEYWORDS:
e-forms, traffic information systems, data entry, data transmission, traffic safety