PROJECT NUMBER: 02101

PROJECT TITLE: Web-based Airport Licensing for the State of Alabama

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PROJECT OBJECTIVE:
Design a revised system for inspecting and licensing Alabama general use airports. This system will be web-based for public access through an ALDOT home page hot key.

MODAL ORIENTATION OF PROJECT: Aviation Transportation

PROJECT ABSTRACT:
This one-year project will develop a revised system for inspection and licensing of Alabama’s general use airports. A weighted system will include a ranking of safety and utility features of airports that can be prepared on a real time basis by the ALDOT inspector and up-linked to the ALDOT website. Public access to the licensing status of airports will be through the ALDOT home page.

PROJECT TASK DESCRIPTIONS:
Task 1: The airport inspection procedures for selected states and the federal government will be refereed and a consensus will represent revised Alabama licensing requirements.
Task 2: These requirements will be rated as to their “weights” in the inspection and licensing procedure.
Task 3: A computer program will be developed in MS EXCEL or ACCESS to incorporate the weighted licensing requirements.
Task 4: The project team will prototype the system by using it for several inspections running parallel to the existing inspection system. This will include up-linking data to the ALDOT website.

Task 5: Preparation of deliverables.

Task 6: The refined inspection and licensing outcomes, if approved by the Bureau, will be incorporated into the ALDOT web site available to the public by hot key.

MILESTONES AND DATES:
Task 1 completion: March 1, 2002
Task 2 completion: May 1, 2002
Task 3 completion: July 1, 2002
Task 4 completion: October 1, 2002
Task 5 completion: December 31, 2002
Task 6 completion: December 31, 2002

TOTAL BUDGET:
One-year project: UTCA $54,220

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT:
A graduate student at the Master’s level and an upper-division undergraduate student will be used in this project.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS:
This project is proposed as a direct result of work being done in the current University Transportation Center of Alabama -funded “Airport Internship 2001” (Project #01111).

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:
This project will generate a final report, web-based inspection/ licensing software, a thesis, and a technical paper. The latter will be submitted to the Transportation Research Record for peer review and publication.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:
- A more realistic weighted inspection/licensing procedure will be developed for airports in Alabama.
- The inspection/licensing procedure will be completed more efficiently and the results distributed more quickly that at the present time.
- Interested industrial developers can gain access to current airport conditions in the areas of interest.
- More readily available airport status to the general public.
- Airport operators can be cognizant of their strengths and deficiencies through the “weighted” inspection/licensing system.
- ALDOT and University specialists will be brought closer together to create better working relationships in a common cause.

TRB KEYWORDS:
General-use airports, airport inspection, airport licensing, web-based