UTC RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER:
02401

PROJECT TITLE:
Alabama ITS/CVO Business Plan

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
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PROJECT OBJECTIVES:
This project will produce a business plan that provides a framework to integrate Intelligent Transportation Systems/Commercial Vehicle Operations (ITS/CVO) technologies with existing state regulatory functions and processes. The plan will be compatible with the Commercial Vehicle Information Systems and Network (CVISN) architecture.

PROJECT ABSTRACT:
A number of major efforts are underway nationally to improve commercial vehicle operations. Typical activities include enhanced coordination between government agencies; better collection, processing, and sharing of data; and software that provides appropriate data at appropriate times to aid in decision making and to diminish processing time. It also involves automating the application process for licenses and permits, for fuel tax reporting and for other record processing. This is beneficial to commercial vehicle owners as well as government agencies.

Because so many agencies and private sector organizations are affected by implementation ITS/CVO technologies, it is important that all planning, design, coordination and implementation activities advance under the framework of a master plan that has been developed in conjunction with and approved by the involved parties. For this project, that includes the Federal Highway Administration, the Alabama Department of Transportation, the Alabama Revenue Department, the Alabama Department of Public Safety, the Public Service Commission, the Alabama Trucking Association, and others.

PROJECT TASK DESCRIPTIONS:
Task 1. Collect and review other ITS/CVO business plans and relevant literature.
Task 2. Gather data pertinent to ITS/CVO in Alabama, including interviews.
Task 3. Coordinate with ALDOT’s ITS consultant.
Task 5. Develop recommendations, and report them to the Alabama ITS/CVO working group.
Task 6. Develop the business plan’s mission statement, guiding principles, goals, and objectives.
Task 7. Meet periodically with the ITS/CVO working group to reach a consensus on each phase of the business planning process.

MILESTONES AND DATES:
Tasks 1-3: Nov 1, 2001 – Mar 31, 2002
Task 4: Mar 31 – May 15, 2002
Task 5: Apr 15 – Jun 15, 2002
Task 6: Feb 1 – Apr 30, 2002
Task 7: continues throughout project
Task 8: July 1 – 31, 2002

TOTAL BUDGET:
UTCA funds $0; ALDOT funds $49,947; total budget $49,947.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT:
A graduate student will work on this project, especially the literature review and collection/review of other ITS/CVO business plans.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS:
This project is not related to any other UTCA projects, nor have other research projects been identified that are similar to this effort.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:
The final report will be the sole technology transfer effort within the scope of this project.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:
This project has enormous potential. On the commercial vehicle side, it can decrease time devoted to reporting to government agencies, decrease down time spent in weigh stations, improve safety, and provide data to owners for internal monitoring of operations. On the government side, it can result in electronic transfer of data, improved safety through examination of data and performance records, and similar activities.

TRB KEYWORDS:
Intelligent vehicle systems, commercial vehicle operations, ITS/CVO