RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER:
02416

PROJECT TITLE:
E-Citation

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PROJECT OBJECTIVE:
This project will develop and prototype an “E-citation” system to be tested at the motor carrier
inspection located on I-20 near Heflin, Alabama. The system will allow field entry of data on a
laptop, and wireless transmission.

PROJECT ABSTRACT:
This project is a major effort to in the process of making law enforcement reporting in Alabama
instantaneous and paperless. It will develop several products, and will pilot test them at a
working inspection site. The four deliverables will include a program that runs on a laptop or
workstation. It will provide screen-based entry on information for an Alabama Uniform Traffic Citation, will provide a local, searchable database of previous citations, and can generate a hard copy transmittal form.

Wireless connectivity will be provided for the laptop, using a local receiver, which in turn will be transmitted via a secure, long-haul communication network between the inspection station and the central servers in Montgomery.

Uploading/data integration and downloading/data access will be designed for compatibility with existing Alabama Criminal Justice Information System, Department of Public Safety and Administrative Office of Courts data files. Additionally, all data will be available to field inspectors in a searchable format.

Field tests will be conducted to ensure that the concepts developed in this project are functional and compatible with existing operating policies and practices.

PROJECT TASK DESCRIPTIONS:
1. Develop an E-Citation client program that can be run on a Windows-based laptop.
2. Develop the networking infrastructure to support laptop data entry, including wireless connectivity to a local receiver, and a fast, secure long-haul communication network.
3. Develop uploading and data integration capabilities to ensure that the field information is received, processed and stored appropriately.
4. Develop downloading and data access capabilities to provide fast access to appropriate data where it is needed in the field.

MILESTONES AND DATES:
• Begin project – Apr 2002
• Task 1 – 10 months to complete.
• Task 2 – 8 months to complete, to start during Task 1.
• Task 3 – 6 months to complete, to run concurrently with Tasks 1 and 2.
• Task 4 – 6 months to complete, to run concurrently with Task 3.
• Conclude project – Sep 2003

TOTAL BUDGET:
18-month project: Administrative Office of Courts $250,000.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT:
Both graduate students and undergraduates will work on this project.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS:
This project is not directly related to any UTCA projects, but it supports several that are involved in improving traffic safety in Alabama.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:
Technology transfer will not be a major activity of this project; however, once the system is fully developed and implemented, training will be provided.
POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:
This project will take the first step in increasing the speed and accuracy of criminal justice information processing. It will provide law enforcement officers with real-time information on a searchable basis while they are inspecting trucks or issuing citations. As a result, chronic violators will be removed from the road, and they will be prosecuted with more accurate, more timely information from the field.

TRB KEYWORDS:
Traffic safety programs, electronic citation, criminal justice information systems