HPP RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER:
03234

PROJECT TITLE:
UTCA Participation in Livable Cities Conference

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:
Melinda Lalor, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Dept. of Civil & Environmental Engineering
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama 35294
Phone: 205.934.8438
Fax: 205.934.9855
Email: mlalor@eng.uab.edu

Steven L. Jones, Jr.
Assistant Professor
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama 35294
Phone: 205.934.8462
Fax: 205.934.9855
Email: sjones@eng.uab.edu

OBJECTIVE:
The objective of the proposed project is for the University Transportation Center to help sponsor and implement the 2003 Livable Cities Conference on Transportation Alternatives for Urban Areas.

ABSTRACT:
The conference is part of an on-going Livable Cities initiative, and is held annually in Birmingham. The theme of the conference this year is “Livable Cities: Transportation Alternatives for Urban Areas,” which focuses directly on issues of interest to transportation management and safety professionals.

The Livable Cities initiative began in 2000, and an annual conference is held in Birmingham each spring. The conference is free and open to the public. Sponsors of past conferences have included the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Alabama Department of Transportation, Alabama Partners for Clean Air, Samford University Department of Geography, The University of Alabama in Birmingham (UAB) Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Alabama Industries Professorship in Environmental Engineering, the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham,
Region 2020, the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Southern Environmental Center, and others.

In 2001, with a conference theme of Livable Cities: Clean Air, the UTCA was also listed as a sponsor due to the leadership of the initiative by (UTCA researchers) Drs. Lalor and Jones. The conference was well organized and publicized. Over 200 people attended the 2001 conference, including representatives from the Alabama Department of Transportation, fourteen county highway and planning departments, twelve city councils, eight colleges and universities, and five county health departments. In addition to their Conference presentations, several of the speakers also made presentations to UAB and Samford University classes.

TASK DESCRIPTIONS:
(1) Finalize list of candidate speakers.
(2) Invite speakers and negotiate costs (e.g., honorariums, travel expenses).
(3) Finalize conference agenda.
(4) Finalize brochures, press releases, and other promotional materials.
(5) Conduct conference and related activities.
(6) Summarize all project efforts in a final report for submittal to the UTCA.

MILESTONES AND DATES
Task 1: Jan-Mar 2003
Task 2: Jan-Mar 2003
Task 3: Mar 2003
Task 4: Feb-Apr 2003
Task 5: Apr 2003
Task 6: Apr-June 2003

YEARLY AND TOTAL BUDGET:
One-year project - total budget $19,982; UTCA share $9,991 (HPP funds).

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT
Students will be encouraged to attend the conference. The project budget included funds for transportation of UA and UAH students to attend the conference.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS:
The project is congruent with the objectives of the UTCA Annual Technology Transfer project (UTCA project 03217) to promote UTCA and its activities throughout the State.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:
By its nature, this is a technology transfer project. Publicity will target transportation professionals, community management and planning professionals, as well as political decision makers, students, faculty and members of the public at large.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:
Co-sponsorship of the conference allows UTCA an excellent opportunity to further establish itself as the leader in management and safety in transportation systems in Alabama. Toward that
end, the UTCA name and logo will appear on all conference materials as acknowledgement of its support. As described above, the three previous conferences have been successful and this year’s is an excellent activity to repeat UTCA participation.

TRB KEY WORDS:
Conference, technology transfer, livable cities, alternative transportation