PROJECT NUMBER:  
03411

PROJECT TITLE:  
Corridor X Access Management and Development Plan

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS  
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OBJECTIVE:  
The research is intended to utilize the latest tools (regional economic forecasting models, GIS, transportation planning software, and traffic simulation software) to study the planning and development of Corridor X. Specifically, these tools will be used to project and analyze future conditions along Corridor X and their impacts to economic development and transportation operations. The result of the project will be a comprehensive Corridor X management and development plan.

ABSTRACT:  
The study area includes all of Corridor X from the Mississippi state line to US-31 in Birmingham. The boundaries of the corridor will be 1.5 to 2.5 miles on either side of Corridor X. The corridor buffer varies in distance to include SR-5 (US-78) where necessary. The work will include development of base mapping, traffic projections and access management scenarios at interchanges along Corridor X. This work will be critical in guiding the future development of this corridor and helping to maintain the nearly $1.1 billion dollar investment. The development of Corridor X is a unique opportunity for the State of Alabama, especially the six counties immediately affected by the corridor. Therefore, the location and timing of development within
the corridor and the access to and from that development are paramount to the success of the corridor. The plan developed under this project will identify the existing industry and existing labor force, and project the character of industry to be attracted and developed. The plan will outline the pattern of the potential development as well as the process and structure for formulating the character of the corridor. The results will include proposed processes and procedures for implementing, maintaining, and updating the plan. Once adopted by the task force, the plan will be a strategic guide for the future.

TASK DESCRIPTIONS:
1. Establish Corridor X Task Force.
2. Data Collection and Base Mapping.
3. Economic Analysis
4. Future Land Use and Transportation Impact Modeling
5. Identify Development Scenarios
6. Recommended Policies and Strategies
7. Implementation Model
8. Produce final Reports and Maps

MILESTONES AND DATES
2. Sep – Dec 2003
4. Dec 2003 – Apr 2004
5. Dec 2003 – Aug 2004
7. Sep 2003 – Aug 2004

YEARLY AND TOTAL BUDGET:
One-year project - total budget $313,280

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT
Two graduate students from the Civil & Environmental Engineering departments at The University of Alabama at Birmingham and one from The University of Alabama in Huntsville will be involved in this study.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS:
Utilizes simulation techniques to analyze access management treatments as identified in UTCA Project 02217.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:
It is intended that the results and techniques used in the Corridor X project will be shared with the Alabama Department of Transportation and other jurisdictions throughout the State for use in similar large scale projects (e.g., Northern Beltline in Birmingham). The investigators will also seek publication of project-derived results in appropriate peer-reviewed journals.
POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:
The project will result in the development of a comprehensive access management plan for interchanges and intersecting state routes along Corridor X. It will also result in the development of a methodology for analyzing the economic development and land use changes associated with the construction of major transportation facilities. It is intended that the methodology will be robust enough to be applied to future projects in the State.

TRB KEY WORDS:
Access management, economic development, land use, simulation, planning