RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER
05301

PROJECT TITLE
Student Seminar and TRB Attendance

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
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OBJECTIVE
The objectives of this project are to increase graduate student scholarly activities through a student research paper competition at the annual UTCA Transportation Research Symposium, and to send deserving students from the three University of Alabama System to the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. The proposed presentations in the student track will highlight current research projects from transportation students of the three campuses. Subsequent attendance at the TRB Annual Meeting will provide invaluable experience and knowledge for our graduate students.

ABSTRACT
Students from the three campuses of the University of Alabama of System are engaged in a variety of transportation-related research activities. This project will provide a mechanism to identify deserving transportation students; establish a forum for the students to present the results of their research to transportation professionals, faculty and other students in a professional setting; and allow the students to expand their education. The mechanism for identifying appropriate students is through submittals of abstracts of student work. Faculty from the three campuses will determine the deserving students through review of the abstracts. The forum for student presentations will be the annual UTCA Transportation Research Symposium. Finally, the students will expand their knowledge of important transportation topics by attendance at the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in Washington D.C.

TASK DESCRIPTIONS
1) Advertise event and select students.
2) Develop and conduct the student symposium.
3) Students attend TRB Meeting and prepare a summary report.
4) Prepare project final report.

MILESTONES AND DATES
The time frame of the project is from January 1, 2005 – February 1, 2006.
Task 1: May-Aug 2005
Task 2: Sep-Oct 2005
Task 3: Jan-2006
Task 4: Feb-2006

Fifteen month project: UTCA $12,100; UAH match $6,672; UA $3,500; UAB $3,500; total budget $25,772.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT
Students from each UA System campuses will be directly involved in this project, as they will be the individuals submitting abstracts presenting their work at the student seminar, attending the TRB Meeting, and preparing written summaries for the project report. We expect this to be very motivational for the students, and to add to their professional capabilities.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROJECTS
This project is part of a continuing series of grad student paper/TRB attendance projects. The first two versions were conducted as UTCA Projects 03308 and 04306.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES
Technology transfer for this project will be evident through the UTCA symposium presentations made by the students and application of knowledge gained at the TRB Conference into other UTCA research projects and student thesis/dissertations.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT
The benefits of this project will be the opportunity for students to gain experience in presenting the results of their research. This project will highlight the work currently being performed by students from the three campuses, and will allow some of the best students from the three campuses to attend the TRB Meeting to enhance their careers. The motivational and educational experiences of students can not be measured, but will be evident in their future work.

TRB KEYWORDS
Student Seminar, TRB Annual Meeting