UTCA PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER
05319

PROJECT TITLE
Review of Urban Transit Systems in Alabama

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
Michael Anderson
Associate Professor
Civil and Environmental Engineering Dept.
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
Huntsville, AL 35899
256-824-5028
256-824-6724 fax
mikea@cee.uah.edu

CO-PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATORS
Steven Jones     Virginia Sisiopiku
Assistant Professor    Associate Professor
The University of Alabama    The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Box 870205      1530 3rd Ave South, Hoehn 311B
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0205   Birmingham, AL 35294
205-348-5859     205-934-9912
sjones@eng.ua.edu    vsisiopiku@uab.edu

PROJECT OBJECTIVE
The objective of this project is to perform a pilot review of selected urban transit systems currently operating in Alabama with guidance from the new Transit Capacity and Quality of Service Manual (TCQSM). Emphasis will be placed on capacity and quality of service considerations. The results of the pilot review will be used to assess the possibility of using the TCQSM for the state. It will also provide transit agencies with knowledge about their systems and will assist in determining potential areas where future work could be directed to increase ridership and improve operations.

PROJECT ABSTRACT
Public transportation is an important component to urban area transportation systems. Riders of transit stem from many situations, from those without alternative means of transportation to those seeking alternatives to automobile driving to ease their daily commutes. In Alabama, there are several urban public transportation agencies operating vehicles with Section 5307 funding. This project serves as a pilot project to review a sample of agencies using guidelines recently published in a Transit Cooperative Research Project titled the Transit Capacity and Quality of Service Manual. The reviews will be performed following as close to the
recommendation of the report as possible and the results will be made available to the agencies to determine future needs and to otherwise benefit the systems.

PROJECT TASKS DESCRIPTIONS
Task 1. Review the TCQSM and relevant literature sources.
Task 2. Contact transit systems to discuss the project and determine their willingness to participate in the study.
Task 3. Collect the necessary data to complete the pilot review calculations.
Task 4. Review and document the service characteristics of each study transit agency.
Task 5. Perform calculations to determine capacity and level of service.
Task 6. Develop a final report to convey the findings to the agencies, and summarize methodology, results, conclusions, and recommendations.

MILESTONE DATES
Task 2: Jun 1-July 31.
Task 3: Jul 1-Augt 31.
Task 4: Aug 15-Sep 30.
Task 6: Nov 130.

BUDGET
This is a six month project: UTCA funds $10,359; total budget $20,721. Matching funds will be provided by UAH, UAB and UA.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT
A student from the civil engineering department of the University of Alabama in Huntsville will be supported in this effort.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROJECTS
This proposal is not related to any other UTCA project.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES
The results of this project will be made available to transit managers of whose agencies are included in the pilot study. Preliminary findings will be also presented at the 2006 UTCA Symposium. In addition, this project sets the stage for a potential project to conduct statewide training on use of the TCQSM, and to develop a statewide application project.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS
The potential benefits of this project are the creation of an additional knowledge base about operation of the transit agencies. It can be used by transit managers to better understand their systems, and to assist them in forging new relationships to develop future activities to improve ridership and operations.

TRB KEYWORDS
Transit, capacity, quality of service, TCQSM