RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER
05406

PROJECT TITLE
ALDOT Research and Development Peer Exchange Conference

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
Daniel S. Turner
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
The University of Alabama
Box 870205
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0205
(205) 348-9925
dturner@coe.eng.ua.edu

PROJECT OBJECTIVE
The purpose of this project is to host and facilitate a peer exchange conference for the Alabama Department of Transportation Research and Development Bureau.

PROJECT ABSTRACT
One condition imposed on ALDOT for receiving US Department of Transportation funding for research and planning activities is to periodically conduct a “peer review” to assess the scope and effectiveness of its efforts. The University Transportation Center of the University of Alabama (UTCA) of the University of Alabama will host and facilitate a conference in the spring of 2005 that will accomplish such a peer review. The review will be conducted by peer representatives of three state departments of transportation (DOTs) and the Alabama Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), working in conjunction with their ALDOT counterparts. The effort will include presentations and feedback from the peer review team (research administrators from the three guest DOTS and ALDOT), from research users (ALDOT managers), and from in-state research partners (universities). This review will be a substantial undertaking that will culminate in a summary report, which will be prepared, printed and bound during the final day of the conference.

PROJECT TASK DESCRIPTIONS
Task 1: Review prior similar conferences, and conduct initial planning.
Task 2: As details of the conference become available, make arrangements for meeting space, lodging, equipment, supplies needed for the conference.
Task 3: Host the conference, and publish the conference summary report on the final day of the conference.
Task 4: Publish a final report.

MILESTONES AND DATES:
Task 1: Mar 15-31, 2005
Task 2: Apr 1-30
Task 3: May 2-5
Task 4: May 6-31, 2005

TOTAL BUDGET:
Two month; ALDOT funds $34,685.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT:
A civil engineering student will be engaged in all project activities.

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

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:
None

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:
This project will engage a host of ALDOT research stakeholders and DOT research directors from other states, to review ALDOT’s current and planned course of action, and to make suggestions for enhancements.

TRB KEYWORDS:
Peer review, research and development