PROJECT NUMBER:  
06122

PROJECT TITLE:  
Federal Transit Administration Workshops

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:  
Dr. Jay K. Lindly, Professor  
Department of Civil, Environmental, & Construction Engineering  
The University of Alabama  
P.O. Box 870205  
Tuscaloosa AL 35487  
Phone: 205-348-1724  
Fax: 205-348-6862  
jlindly@eng.ua.edu

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:  
The objective of the project is to initiate cooperation and a close working relationship between UTCA and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). During the project, UTCA will work with the FTA to hold three workshops where UTCs, FTA, and transit agencies will outline transit research needs in the US and discuss specific research projects to fill those needs.

PROJECT ABSTRACT:  
The FTA desires to bring together UTC personnel with FTA research managers and state and local transit agencies so that the groups can discuss mutual research interests that support transit and the national surface transportation research plan. FTA desires to start this dialogue by sponsoring three, one-day workshops. FTA asked UTCA to implement these three workshops – in Denver, Birmingham, and Washington, D.C. in November 2006 and January 2007 – through a cooperative agreement with a budget of $25,000. $25,000 will be insufficient to implement the three workshops. The project will use the UTCA funds to augment FTA funds to ensure that three successful workshops will be held, cementing solid ties between FTA and UTCA.

PROJECT TASK DESCRIPTIONS:  
Task 1. Coordinate with FTA and University of Denver. Personnel from the University of Denver and the FTA have been asked to act as local coordinators for the workshops in Denver and Washington, DC. UTCA personnel will work closely with these individuals to plan advertising, lodging, meeting rooms, speakers, meals, refreshments, audio-visual equipment, etc. for the workshops.
Task 2. **Conduct Workshops.** Dr. Lindly will lead UTCA personnel in implementing the Birmingham workshop scheduled for November 2, 2006. He will also travel to Denver and Washington, DC November 17, 2006 and January 19, 2007 to work with local coordinators there to lead the workshops. UTCA will pay for all workshop expenses through the FTA cooperative agreement and the funds supplied by UTCA.

**MILESTONES AND DATES:**
Task 1: September 06 – January 07  
Task 2: November 06 – March 07

**TOTAL BUDGET:**
A six-month project: UTCA $12,035; matching $12,035.

**STUDENT INVOLVEMENT:**
Students are not included in the project funding. However, several undergraduate and graduate students who work on the Birmingham workshop will gain experience of putting on a national level conference.

**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS:**
This project is independent of other research projects currently funded by UTCA. However, information gained concerning FTA and transit agency research needs may stimulate future research topics for UTCA.

**TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:**
The focus of this project is technology transfer and “outreach”. UTCA will benefit from being associated with national FTA workshops.

**POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:**
This project will benefit efforts to promote the national surface transportation research plan. It will cement strong ties between FTA and UTCA and will increase UTCA visibility by implementing national workshops.

**TRB KEYWORDS:**
transit, surface transportation research plan