RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER
06408

PROJECT TITLE
Implement the Alabama Strategic Highway Safety Plan

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
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PROJECT OBJECTIVE
The University Transportation Center for Alabama (UTCA) and the Care Research and Development Lab (CRDL) will provide facilitation and technical services to support the implementation of the Alabama Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). A draft of the plan was completed in a previous project. It must be completed, a multidisciplinary team must be assembled, and details of implementation must be created and coordinated. The volunteer task force at the heart of implementation could be as large as 100 people, representing 25 or more agencies and organizations.

PROJECT ABSTRACT
Highway safety is the number one goal of the USDOT. The American Association of State Highway and Safety Officials (AASHTO) stressed road safety when it created a safety plan with 22 emphasis areas supported by 92 safety strategies that are intended to save 7,000–8,000 lives per year. ALDOT has begun implementing portions of the AASHTO plan, by serving as a “lead state” in developing a comprehensive safety plan. ALDOT engaged UTCA to prepare the safety plan (UTCA project 04404) by leading 100 volunteer safety advocates through facilitated workshops to identify the most appropriate topics. The group established a goal or reducing the Alabama fatality rate from 1.8 to 1.5 per 100 million vehicle miles traveled by 2008. The group identified five key elements as the heart of the program: emergency medical services, older/restricted drivers, risky driving, run-off-road crashes, and safety legislation. After the
preliminary plan was published, Congress enacted SAFETEA-LU which required such plans and established specifications for them. The current project is intended to modify the draft plan to meet SAFETEA-LU requirements, and to develop details of implementing it. A team of 50-100 volunteers will again be used to complete the project.

PROJECT TASK DESCRIPTIONS
Task 1: Form Steering Team – An executive committee of 6 - 8 people will be used to guide the overall effort.

Task 2: Organize the Effort and Assemble a Task Force – The plan implementation must be a group effort, shared by all affected parties. It is anticipated that the Task Force will also include managers with decision authority.

Task 3: Assemble Teams and Facilitate Meetings – Teams will be assembled to work on the five major SHSP elements.

Task 4: Interact with the State Safety Coordination Committee – The revised SSCC is a high level committee working on “big picture” traffic safety. The UA research staff will provide technical support as requested.

Task 5: Develop and New Materials for SHSP – SAFETEA-LU required some specific items that were not included in the CHSP, which must be developed.

Task 6: Evaluate Implementation Results –UTCA envisions conducting this evaluation at the end of this one year project, if implementation is complete and sufficient data is available.

Task 7: Document the Project Results – A final report will be prepared.

MILESTONES AND DATES:
Task 1: Aug 06
Task 2: Aug-Sep 06
Task 3: Sep 06-Jun 07
Task 4: Sep 06 – Jul 07
Task 5: Aug-Sep 06
Task 6: July 07
Task 7: July 07

TOTAL BUDGET:
One-year project; ALDOT funding; total budget $110,960.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT:
One civil engineering graduate student will work on the project.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROJECTS:
This project is closely related to UTCA project 04404 that that developed the draft safety plan.
TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:
This project will develop the implementation details for a huge safety project. It will involve educational sessions, training sessions, and public information programs.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:
This project has a goal of reducing the highway fatality rate from 1.8 to 1.5 per 100 million miles of travel by 2008. That will save the lives of 180 Alabamians each year.

TRB KEYWORDS:
Strategic highway safety plan; older driver accidents; risky driving, run-off-road accidents; emergency medical services