RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER:
06409

PROJECT TITLE:
Implementation Plan for the Safe Routes to School Program

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
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PROJECT OBJECTIVES:
The purpose of this project is to develop a program to encourage Alabama children in primary and middle school (grades K-8), including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school.

PROJECT ABSTRACT:
The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) has designated a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Coordinator. The University of Alabama (UA) team will work closely with the coordinator to implement the program by refining and developing the policies, processes, and documents that will be used to conduct the SRTS program, including evaluation and reporting procedures.

PROJECT TASK DESCRIPTIONS:
Task 1) Kickoff Meeting.

Task 2) Perform Background Research – This will involve the accumulation and evaluation of materials available, including an assessment of other states’ processes.

Task 3) Form Advisory Group - Coordinate with existing groups and programs in Alabama during the research.

Task 4) Develop Program Procedures - One deliverable from the research is a written set of program procedures, guidelines, and forms which will guide the SRTS program.

Task 5) Program Materials - UA will obtain materials from the affiliated SRTS advisory groups as well as from national sources to be shared with groups interested in SRTS.

Task 6) Program Evaluation Procedures - One project goal is to develop an effective evaluation process for local programs funded by SRTS.
Task 7) Build an Alabama SRTS Website - the UA team will produce a website containing basic program information, sample training materials, program guidelines and requirements, applications forms, etc.

Task 8) Advertising Campaign - UA will work with the ALDOT SRTS coordinator and members of the Advisory Group to advertise the SRTS program.

Task 9) Produce Administration Manual - The results of the first eight steps will be compiled in a manual that explains the program and its workings.

MILESTONES AND DATES:
The project will last from 10/1/06 to 9/30/07. Milestone highlights are shown below.
Task 1: November 06
Task 2: December 06
Task 3: December 06
Task 4: March 07
Task 5: April 07
Task 6: May 07
Task 7: July 07
Task 8: July 07
Task 9: August 07

TOTAL BUDGET:
Ten month project; ALDOT funding; total budget $114,956.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT:
A part time graduate student and a part time undergraduate student will investigate websites, screen training materials, and construct tables, lists, and links for the website.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS:
As a safety project, this project is indirectly related to many other UTCA projects.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:
The focus of this project is “outreach” to the Alabama community.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:
The program should acquaint children with walking and bicycle safety, encouraging them to follow a healthy and active lifestyle, improving safety, and reducing traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools

TRB KEYWORDS:
safety, pedestrians, bicycling, non-motorized transportation, school crossings