RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER
07115

PROJECT TITLE
Synthesis of Safety Implications for Oversize/Over Weight Commercial Vehicles

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
This project will prepare a synthesis of safety for crashes involving oversize and over weight (OS/OW) commercial vehicles. The purpose is to allow safety to play a stronger role in enforcement activities and to provide data to assist state DOTs in evaluating requests for permits for OS/OW vehicles.

PROJECT ABSTRACT
This project will conduct implementation research associated with a 2006 scanning tour of Commercial Motor Vehicle Size and Weight Enforcement programs in several European countries. The tour was initiated because of U.S. concern about infrastructure damage and safety associated with the permitting of OS/OW vehicles. The project will include a thorough review of the existing domestic and international literature; interviews of individuals involved with commercial vehicle operations, permitting, enforcement and safety; plus the potential merger and analysis of permitting and traffic crash data.

PROJECT TASK DESCRIPTIONS
Task 1: Conduct project kickoff meeting.
Task 2: Appoint advisory panel.
Task 3: Evaluate background information.
Task 4: Conduct literature review and make telephone calls to knowledgeable officials.
Task 5: Prepare a draft synthesis for review by advisory panel.
Task 6: Prepare final draft of synthesis incorporating panel feedback.

MILESTONES AND DATES:
Task 1: Apr., 2007
Task 2: Apr.
Task 3: May-June
Task 4: June-Aug.
Task 5: Aug.-Sep.
Task 6: Sept. - Dec., 2006

TOTAL BUDGET:
Twelve month project; UTCA budget $32,000; matching funds provided by existing SPR projects conducted by other UA faculty members.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT:
A female transportation graduate student will be engaged for the duration of the project.

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

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:
None

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:
Little is currently known about the safety of OS/OW vehicles. This project could potentially provide background materials for new or enhanced safety and enforcement programs.

TRB KEYWORDS:
Commercial vehicle safety; vehicle size and weight