PROJECT NUMBER: 
99104

PROJECT TITLE: 
Analysis and Recommendations for Rural Public Transportation Systems in Alabama

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS: 
Dr. Jay K. Lindly
Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering
University of Alabama
Box 870205
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487
(205) 348-1724
jlindly@coe.eng.ua.edu

Dr. Richard Sanford
Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering
University of Alabama
Box 870205
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487
(205) 348-6550
rsanford@coe.eng.ua.edu

PROJECT OBJECTIVE: 
Development of a comprehensive plan for rural public transportation in Alabama is the focus of this project. The plan will concentrate on quality of service, efficiency, cost savings, safety, and revenue sources. Recognizing the need to enlarge the role of public transportation as the State continues to grow, it is desirable to establish a service program that includes ensuring basic mobility for all citizens, providing auto-competitive bus and rail passenger services, and defining the appropriate role of State government in funding transit services.

MODAL ORIENTATION OF PROJECT: 
Transit

PROJECT ABSTRACT: 
This study is directed at development of a comprehensive plan for rural public transportation in Alabama. This plan is expected to provide ALDOT and other key agencies with much needed planning tools for the future implementation and improvement of rural public transportation. The plan will focus on current and future transportation needs; coordination of resources and services; long-range planning; stable State support; effectiveness of delivery systems, and funding opportunities from Federal sources in addition to FTA.
PROJECT TASK DESCRIPTIONS:
1) Data gathering from the literature and from contacts with appropriate agencies.
2) Data evaluation and synthesis.
3) Development of recommendations.
4) Production of final report.

MILESTONES AND DATES:
Task 1 (Jul 1, 1999 – Jan 30, 2000)
Task 2 (Nov 15, 1999 – Mar 1, 2000)
Task 3 (Mar 1, 2000 – Apr 1, 2000)
Task 4 (Apr 1, 2000 – Apr 15, 2000)

TOTAL BUDGET:
One-year project: UTCA $50,696; total budget $101,019.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT:
This project includes a graduate research assistantship, and the research is expected to form the M.S. thesis of a graduate student.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS:
No other UTCA projects are known on the topic of transit.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:
Technology transfer will include distribution of the final report to the appropriate agencies and individuals. Published professional papers will serve as the vehicle for informing other interested professionals worldwide.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:
This report is expected to provide ALDOT and other key agencies with much needed planning tools for the future implementation and improvement of rural public transportation. The report will include a proposed multi-year plan for rural transportation in the State, focusing on current and future transportation needs; coordination of resources and services; long-range, stable State support; effectiveness of delivery systems; and funding opportunities from Federal sources in addition to FTA.

TRB KEYWORDS:
Transit, intercity bus, rural public transportation.