SPR PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER:
03415

PROJECT TITLE:
Transportation Modeling Support for the Metropolitan Planning Organizations within Alabama

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
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PROJECT OBJECTIVES:
The research objective is to provide technical support and training on the use of urban transportation modeling packages and data necessary to operate the models. The urban transportation modeling packages that will be supported through this effort include TRANPLAN, Cube, CORSIM and possibly TransCAD.

PROJECT ABSTRACT:
Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are responsible for local traffic modeling and forecasting. The forecasted traffic information is used to develop the community’s long-range transportation plan and Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). This research proposal focuses on improving transportation planning knowledge as a way to improve planning. This improvement of knowledge is necessary as TRANPLAN, the state’s current travel demand software package, is difficult to learn and understand, even for basic planning purposes. In addition, the state is currently considering switching to another modeling package, Cube, which will require additional training.

PROJECT TASK DESCRIPTIONS:
Task 1. Identify needs for Alabama cities.
Task 2. Prepare educational material.
Task 3. Provide the workshops at convenient times and locations.

MILESTONES AND DATES:
Project Startup – Jan. 1, 2003
Workshops – March, June, September, December, 2003

TOTAL BUDGET:
This project is funded by the Alabama Department of Transportation, using “State Planning & Research” funds; the total budget is $72,927.
STUDENT INVOLVEMENT:
The students hired to work on this research project will be responsible for assisting in the
development of workshop material, will participate in workshop activities related to
transportation modeling, and will help with technology transfer activities.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS:
This project can be viewed as a stand-alone project as it does not tie into any other UTCA
projects.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:
This project directly supports the technology transfer goals of the UTCA, as the products
generated through this research will be provided to all interested cities through on-site
workshops/training sessions and enhanced documentation.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:
The workshops will provide education to transportation planners and engineers employed by
Alabama cities on the specifics of travel demand modeling, and on the integration of these
models with GIS.

TRB KEYWORDS:
Traffic Modeling, TRANPLAN, Cube, CORSIM, TransCAD, Database Management, TIP