

## SPR RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### PROJECT NUMBER

04404

### PROJECT TITLE

Off-Road Accidents and Safety Plan Development

### 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 supports the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) response to a safety initiative by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). The University Transportation Center for Alabama (UTCA) will provide leadership, management, meeting facilitation, and documentation support to assist ALDOT in conducting two AASHTO-initiated safety projects: lead state initiative in off-road crashes and preparation of a comprehensive safety plan.

### PROJECT ABSTRACT

The AASHTO Safety plan is extremely comprehensive. It contains 92 separate safety strategies that are intended to save 7,000 – 8,000 lives per year by concentrating on 22 emphasis areas. The National Cooperative Highway Research Program has conducted a massive implementation study (NCHRP Project 17-18(3)) and has prepared background information for the AASHTO highway safety plan. NCHRP has already published the following reports on this topic:

- NCHRP Report 501, “Integrated Management Process to Reduce Highway Injuries and Fatalities Statewide”
- NCHRP Report 500, “Guidance for Implementation of the AASHTO Strategic Highway Safety Plan” (first six volumes of many that will be developed):
  - 1) Volume 1: A Guide for Addressing Aggressive-Driving Collisions
  - 2) Volume 2: A Guide for Addressing Collisions Involving Unlicensed Drivers and Drivers with Revoked Licenses
  - 3) Volume 3: A Guide for Addressing Collisions with Trees in Hazardous Locations
  - 4) Volume 4: A Guide for Addressing Head-On Collisions
  - 5) Volume 5: A Guide for Addressing Unsignalized Intersection Collisions
  - 6) Volume 6: A Guide for Addressing Run-Off-Road Collisions

In Alabama, accomplishing this bold effort will require extensive coordination, meeting facilitation, and technical assistance. That will be provided by UTCA, in helping the State reduce the number of traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities.

#### PROJECT TASK DESCRIPTIONS

Task 1: Initiate Project and organize a steering committee

Task 2: Attend national coordination conducted by NCHRP and national experts

Task 3: Identification, extract, and analyze appropriate data

Task 4: Conduct on-going coordination and planning with stakeholder agencies and organizations

Task 5: Identify and test strategies to address crash types

Task 6: Develop draft plan, test it, refine it, and publish it

#### MILESTONES AND DATES:

Task 1: Dec 2003

Task 2: Jan 2004

Task 3: Mar - Jul 2004

Task 4: Jan 2004 - Mar 2005

Task 5: Mar 2004 - Dec 2004

Task 6: Jan - May, 2005

#### TOTAL BUDGET:

Seventeen month project; ALDOT State Planning and Research (SPR) funds \$77,777.

#### STUDENT INVOLVEMENT:

A graduate student and an undergraduate student will assist in this project.

#### RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROJECTS:

This project is not directly related to any other UTCA projects.

#### TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:

This project will produce at least two safety plans that can be adopted by Alabama agencies. It is possible that plan implementation training might result from this project.

#### POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:

The results of this project can not be measured directly. From an optimistic point of view, if the entire AASHTO safety initiative (including the Alabama projects) is successful, then Alabama could reduce traffic fatalities by as much as 125 per year.

#### TRB KEYWORDS:

Off-road crashes, lead state initiative, AASHTO safety initiative, comprehensive safety plan