PROJECT OVERVIEW REPORT

1. Center Identifying Number
   150 RU9142

2. Project Title
   Transportation Safety Resource Center (TSRC)

3. Principal Investigator
   Dr. Ali Maher
   Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering
   Rutgers University
   623 Bowser Rd. Piscataway, NJ 08854-8014
   Phone: 732-445-2232
   mmaher@rci.rutgers.edu

4. NJDOT Principal
   Patricia Ott
   New Jersey Department of Transportation
   1035 Parkway Ave.
   Trenton, NJ 08625

5. Project Objective
   Based on the requirements of NJDOT, we have identified six major objectives. These six objectives are:

   Objective 1: Creation of a New Jersey based transportation safety center in partnership with FHWA, NJDOT, local governments, academic institutions, and the private sector to address traffic safety and resulting transportation security issues at local levels.

   Objective 2: The program is based at Rutgers University and builds on significant existing resources from academic institutions and the private sector in New Jersey and NY/NJ metropolitan area. The direction of the program will be under an advisory board consisting of NJDOT, FHWA, University and representatives from the local stakeholders.

   Objective 3: The program will be modeled after other successful operations, such as the UMTRI and CDRL projects, that have been funded by FHWA for addressing transportation safety and security issues for a limited number of municipalities, in order to identify the best practices for statewide implementation in New Jersey.

   Objective 4: The program will enable the local governments in implementation of a “proven” comprehensive safety management planning model that includes application of crash data analysis, congestion management, and security components.
Objective 5: The program will create a comprehensive training and analysis service for the improvement of crash data accuracy and use, which is a critical element in conforming NJ’s records and methods of practice with the federal criteria and thus releasing of more than $42M in un-obligated unexpended safety funding.

Objective 6: The program will also consist of a dynamic and rigorous workforce training, technology transfer, and clearinghouse component.

6. Project Abstract

The main theme of the new transportation authorization proposal, SAFETEA, is the reduction of traffic related fatalities through a series of new programs and initiatives which are to be implemented at state and local levels during the course of the program. In view of the current emphasis on transportation and traffic safety needs, we propose the creation of a transportation safety resource center (TSRC), at Rutgers University, in partnership with New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Division of Traffic Safety and Engineering, the Federal Highway Administration – New Jersey Division (FHWA), and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

The aim of the TSRC is to improve safety by creating a new core program that consolidates existing efforts that have been championed by both the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), and providing new incentive bonuses to reward States that achieve demonstrable safety results. Additionally, transportation research centers (UMTRI and CRDL) throughout the United States have provided a variety of technical services that supplement their DOT and/or the Divisions of Highway Traffic Safety agencies. They offer partnering services that include conducting agency evaluations, distributing resources, planning small resource projects, sponsoring workshops, and developing websites. Similarly, TSRC will provide these services to the NJDOT Bureau of Safety Programs and the FMCSA, along with technical support on merging specialized data sources with the New Jersey Crash Records System.

Furthermore, the specific objectives of this timely initiative are to provide comprehensive training and technical assistance to all local stakeholders in New Jersey who are involved with the implementation of federal and state safety programs. The resource center will provide the first tier service for the locals before they approach NJDOT for the resolution of their safety related problems. By using the resources of the center, the local users will be able to package and present their problems to NJDOT along with potential solutions.
7. Task Descriptions
   Phase 1: Research Approach
   Task 1- Technical Assistance to work with the locals in the definition of problems and identification of potential solutions. A majority of the anticipated services will be in traffic safety and related engineering analysis.
   Task 2– Enhancement of crash data processing tools to build a layer of functionality on top of the existing database to provide statistical analysis of the accident data and a decision support system which can be used to establish appropriate decision making framework and to evaluate alternative decisions based on the existing statistics.
   Task 3 – Training and outreach to offer technical support in the area of problem identification to the MPOs and local government agencies. The Center will also provide outreach and training for the emergency management personnel.

8. Milestones/Dates
   Phase 1: Research Approach
   Task 1: Technical Assistance   3/31/2005
   Task 2: Enhancement of Crash Data Processing   5/15/2005
   Task 3: Training and Outreach Activities   9/30/2005

9. Yearly and Total Budget
   Year One & Total Budget
   NJDOT Sponsorship        (6/1/2004-12/31/2005)    $850,000

10. Student Involvement
    Two (2) Graduate Student Researchers

11. Relationship to Other Research Projects
    New Jersey Local Technical Assistance Program, Police Local Technical Assistance Program

12. Technology Transfer Activities
    The primary goals of the TRSC will be to offer technical support in the area of problem identification to the MPOs and local government agencies. However, the Center will also provide outreach and training for the emergency management personnel. This group seriously needs to begin supplying accurate medical data to the NJDOT, in order for this information to be used for determining true costs of crashes. Also, the EMS personnel need to take the lead in establishing a statewide Injury Surveillance System, which will ultimately include EMS Run Reports, hospital data, Traffic Crash Reports, and Rehabilitation data. Other services, provided by CAIT-LTAP, include creating a directory of information resources, distributing publications, publicizing mapping capabilities, and establishing a statewide Injury Surveillance System.
13. Potential Benefits of the Project
   • A NJ based (one-stop) resource center with a major focus on traffic safety concerns of local governments in New Jersey.
   • Technical support on safety project selection will be provided to the three Metropolitan Planning Organizations that service the counties and municipalities of New Jersey.
   • The program will serve to institutionalize the commitment to safety, congestion management, and security to local government officials, including but not limited to public works, planners, engineers, and law enforcement personnel.
   • The program will also serve elected officials and legislators, who need to be updated regularly on traffic safety, congestion management, and transportation security issues.
   • The program will have capabilities in all aspects of planning, engineering, data processing, and analysis by utilizing extensive existing capabilities at Rutgers and other NJ institutions, state agencies, and the private sector.

14. TRB Keywords
    Traffic Safety, Technology Transfer, Congestion Management Systems

15. TRB Code Words
    Haat, Xst, Dcmthcc