

STC Research Project Description

Project Title: Integration of Transportation and Emergency Services: Identifying the Critical Interfaces, Obstacles, and Opportunities

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Project Start Date: January 1, 2004

End Date: December 31, 2004

Other Milestones, Dates:

Project Objective: The research will examine the integration of transportation and emergency services to accomplish four interrelated purposes: (1) describe the state of the practice, (2) identify and diagram critical interface activities and decision-making processes, (3) assess interface vulnerabilities and opportunities for improvement, and (4) make recommendations that address the most important vulnerabilities and opportunities through specific tactical and strategic initiatives.

Project Abstract:

The research focuses on the interfaces between surface transportation (highway and public transit) and six key components of emergency services: law enforcement, fire and rescue services, all-hazards emergency management, emergency medical services, emergency communications, and homeland security. Leaders from each of these disciplines in five different Southeastern states will be engaged through a Delphi survey and focus group to identify, refine, and reach consensus on the most important issues and opportunities and to explore new paradigms.

Task Description: The project will involve five major tasks:

- Conduct literature review
 - Conduct a Delphi survey of key leaders from transportation agencies and the six emergency services
 - Conduct a focus group session with representative leaders from transportation and emergency services
 - Prepare summaries and “process maps” to describe the findings, conclusions, and recommendations
 - Prepare a paper for peer review and develop other technology transfer material
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Total Budget: \$125,746 (including matching funds)

Student Involvement: Research assistants

Relationship to Other Projects: Projects related to highway incident management, emergency transportation operations, and homeland security

Technology Transfer Activities: Brochure summarizing results; reports to survey participants; peer-reviewed article; Web pages as appropriate

Potential Benefits of Project: Identify needs and help set priorities for immediate, targeted efforts by state and local agencies to improve the integration of transportation and emergency services; help define a strategic agenda for research to address more complex problems and take advantage of opportunities.

TRB Keywords: incident management, emergency, security, operations