

STC Research Project Description

Project Title: Data Collection Needs for Work Zone Incident Investigation

Project Number: R-8

Principal Investigator: Dr. Scott Washburn

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External Project Contact (if applicable):

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Project Start Date: 07-01-2005

End Date: 06-30-2005

Other Milestones, Dates:

Project Objective:

To develop a supplemental crash data collection form specific to work zone variables for use by law enforcement officers during the investigation of incidents at work zone areas. The primary method for accomplishing this objective will be through the use of focus groups with various work zone safety stakeholders.

Project Abstract:

Problems associated with studying work zone crashes begin with an insufficiency of data relevant to the unique circumstances created by these locations. Collecting additional relevant data in work zones has the potential to remedy this problem and provide the basis for more effective study of factors surrounding work zone incidents.

Task Description:

Conduct focus groups with work zone safety stakeholders (police, engineers, contractors and citizens) to determine necessary data requirements that are not currently captured in typical police reports.

Develop draft *Supplemental Work Zone Crash Report* data collection form (hard copy and electronic versions).

Review of draft form by focus group participants.

Make necessary revisions to draft form and finalize for pilot testing.

Pilot test data collection instrument in the field with law enforcement personnel.

Make necessary final revisions for potential future large scale implementation.

Synthesize and report findings in final research project report.

Total Budget: \$ 25,000.00 STC + \$25,000 matching

Student Involvement (Thesis, Assistantships, Paid Employment):

One graduate student (for Masters thesis) and one or two undergraduate research assistants

Relationship to Other Projects:

The UF-TRC is currently involved in two research projects investigating traffic operations issues at work zones on various roadway facilities

Technology Transfer Activities:

The final project report will be made available through the STC and UF web sites; at least one professional paper will be submitted to a refereed journal; and a presentation will be made at one or two technical conferences (e.g., TRB, ITE).

Potential Benefits of Project:

A richer set of data for work zone crashes potentially leads to a better understanding of crash causation factors. With a better understanding of work zone crash causes, engineers can make recommendations that potentially improve the physical design and operation of work zones, law enforcement agencies can tailor enforcement operations to modify driver behavior in work zone areas, and public information and education programs can be created to inform/remind the public of the dangers of work zones in a more specific way.

TRB Keywords:

work zone; traffic safety; construction; crash reporting; crash data collection; police reporting