STC Research Project Description

Project Title: Investigation of the Safety Training of Motor Carrier Drivers
Principal Investigator: Dr. Kathryn Dobie
University: North Carolina A&T State University
Telephone: 336 334-7656 ext 4020 Email Address: kdobie@triad.rr.com

Project Start Date: December 2002 End Date: December 2003
Other Milestones, Dates:
May 30, 2003 – Data Collection Completed
June 30, 2003 – Data Analysis Completed

Project Objective:
The purpose of this research is to determine the relationship between ongoing safety training efforts on the part of carriers to the safety levels of their respective driver force. An associated question is whether different types of training are more or less effective that other types. The costs of training must be justified by the decrease in costs associated with safety related incidents.

Project Abstract:
The increased demands being placed on the Nation’s highway system by public and private users has resulted in highway crowding, and increased potential for safety-related accidents. This problem has been approached through a combination of laws and regulations at all governmental levels. In addition, motor carriers have instituted various programs to reduce the level of safety-related incidents in which their drivers are involved.

The results of this study will be useful in producing a picture of the state of the industry regarding safety training and programs being used in an effort to reduce safety-related incidents. It is expected that a pattern will emerge regarding the most effective types of programs and training. This will serve as a benchmark as more carriers institute training programs and carriers with existing programs seek to improve their effectiveness.

Task Description:
Information will be gathered using surveys sent to individual drivers and to the carrier manager responsible for operational safety and training. These individuals will be selected from the membership of the American Trucking Association and the National Association of Small Truckers. This will provide a better picture of industry practices than focusing on the membership of a single organization.

The resulting data will be analyzed to determine trends, relationships and correlations between the various carrier and carrier program characteristics and the level of safety related incidents. The purpose will be to determine the existence of best practices, ineffective practices or non-existent practices that might be dependent on carrier characteristics or other variables.
From the results of the data analysis, it is hoped that there will emerge a pattern which will provide a benchmark for the design and implementation of safety training programs which are most effective in minimizing the frequency and severity of safety-related incidents involving motor carriers on the Nation’s highways.

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<th>Total Budget: $10,000</th>
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**Student Involvement (Thesis, Assistantships, Paid Employment):**
Survey development and tabulation

**Relationship to Other Projects:**
Research designed to establish processes for the identification of security enhancement opportunities and implementation of security enhancement programs in the public transit industry using a six sigma approach.

**Technology Transfer Activities:**
The results of this research will be disseminated through professional journals such as the *Transportation Journal* and/or the *Journal of Transportation Management*. In addition, the principle investigators will present the results of the study at meetings of TRB, CLM, AST&L, and/or DNA.

**Potential Benefits of Project:**
The benefits are twofold; 1. gaining a better understanding of carrier efforts to promote a more safety conscious driver force, contributing to lower accident rates on the Nation’s highways, and 2. gaining a more complete understanding of driver attitudes toward participation in safety training activities and its effect on his/her driving behaviors.

**TRB Keywords:**
Safety, Motor Carrier, Driver training