

**Identify The Risk Factors That Contribute to Fatalities and Serious Injuries  
and Implement Evidence-Based Risk Elimination and Mitigation Strategies**

**Quarterly Progress Report  
For the period ending May 31, 2018**

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**ACCELERATED BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION  
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Submitted to:  
ABC-UTC  
Florida International University  
Miami, FL

June 2018

## **1 Background and Introduction**

Construction activities related to bridge replacement and rehabilitation are significant contributors to safety hazards. The safety hazards attributed to construction work zones are alarming and accordingly, safety is a major focus of 2018-2022 US DOT Strategic plan. One of the most important advantages of ABC is to improve the safety, which is achieved by reducing onsite construction activities and thereby reducing accidents, injuries to workers and public. No good documentation is available yet for this major ABC advantage. This collaborative project with FIU and ISU aims at filling such gap. The overall objective of this project is to provide quantitative data supporting the fact that ABC does improve safety relative to conventional construction. The output of this project can provide future evidence and justification that can be used by state DOTs to further implement ABC and consider ABC for new construction.

## **2 Problem Statement**

Construction activities related to bridge replacement and rehabilitation are important contributors to traffic jams and reduced mobility and, most importantly, to safety hazards. The safety is a major focus of 2018-2022 US DOT Strategic plan. The safety hazards attributed to construction work zones are alarming. “There were 87,606 crashes in work zones in 2010. There were 37,476 injuries in work zones in 2010. This equates to one work zone injury every 14 minutes (over 102 per day), or about four people injured every hour. In 2010, there were 514 fatal motor vehicle crashes in work zones, resulting in 576 fatalities. These 576 fatalities equate to one work zone fatality every 15 hours” (<http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/>). One of the most important advantages of ABC is to improve the safety, which is achieved by reducing onsite construction activities and thereby reducing accidents, injuries to workers and public. However, up until now there has been no good documentation of this ABC advantage. This project will provide quantitative data supporting the fact that ABC does improve safety.

## **3 Research Approach and Methods**

Onsite construction time required for a bridge replacement can be reduced from a year or more using conventional construction, to a few weeks or less using ABC technologies. This significant reduction of time in the work zone translates to vastly improved safety for the traveling public and construction crews. A benefit/cost analysis for the reduced number of days of work zones due to

the use of ABC requires 1) an estimate of the number of crashes avoided, and 2) the monetary value of each avoided crash, including a breakdown of fatalities and injuries for each. The U.S. DOT's Value of Statistical Life (VSL) can be used to determine the monetary value of each avoided crash, as discussed on the U. S. DOT Office of Safety website. Also discussed is the use of the Maximum Abbreviated Injury Scale (MAIS) for fractional values to assess the benefit of preventing an injury crash.

In this project, the data described above can be compiled and interpreted through collaborative efforts between UNR and FIU. The data will be provided by FIU and processed and interpreted at UNR. The overall objective of this project is to provide quantitative data supporting the fact that ABC does improve safety relative to conventional construction. Literature search will include work of USDOT Office of Safety and recently completed ABC-UTC total costs research projects at FIU. The output of this project can provide future evidence and justification that can be used by state DOTs to further implement ABC and consider ABC for new construction.

#### **4 Description of Research Project Tasks**

The research team is currently working on a detailed research plan and specific research tasks that will be conducted over the course of the next year.

#### **5 Expected Results and Specific Deliverables**

The main deliverables from this project are: (1) Tool and guide to quantify safety benefits of ABC relative to conventional construction; and (2) Final Report.

#### **6 Schedule**

This project will be conducted over a period of 12 months with expected completion date June 30, 2018. A detailed schedule will be provided in the next quarter report based on finalized research tasks.