1. Introduction

The purpose is for State Department of Transportation (DOTs) to provide innovative ways in implementing training and certification opportunities for construction inspectors.

Importance of Construction Inspectors:
- Inspectors provide quality assurance of construction projects
- Increase in transportation infrastructure projects

Major Problems:
- Lack of consistent certification method
- Limited number of experienced and knowledgeable construction inspectors

Goals:
- Create best practices for construction inspection
- Create training and certification modules for construction inspectors

2. Background

- Highway Transportation Infrastructure is currently underfunded (FHWA 2011)
- Construction inspectors are required to perform 4 times the workload of inspectors in 1978 (FHWA 2011)
- Construction inspectors are an important asset to any DOT because they provide quality assurance on transportation infrastructure construction projects
- GDOT currently lacks a system to transfer knowledge from experienced inspectors to new employees
- Quality training and certification need to be available for GDOT inspectors

3. Objective

Primary Objectives
1) Provide recommendations for best inspection practices for transportation construction infrastructure projects
2) Create a delivery system for construction inspector training/certification materials

4. Methodology

Available Training Methods:
1) Live instructor (central office)
2) Live instructor (district office)
3) Webinar
4) Self-paced and web-based

Evaluation Metrics:
1) Cost
2) Time
3) Quality
4) Implementation Strategy
5) Ease of Updating Information

Benefits (per course):
1) Decrease travel time (85 hrs)
2) Cost savings ($2,466)
3) Personnel planning improved

Limitations:
- Security logistics
- Frequency of certification
- Bypass courses for experienced inspectors

5. Results

- Manual Clarity for Road Surface Preparation
  - State: Very Good / Good / Average / Poor / Very Poor / N/A
  - Alabama: X
  - Arkansas: X
  - Florida: X
  - Georgia: X
  - Kentucky: X
  - Louisiana: X
  - Maryland: X
  - Mississippi: X
  - New York: X
  - North Carolina: X
  - South Carolina: X
  - Tennessee: X
  - Texas: X
  - Virginia: X
  - West Virginia: X

6. Conclusion

- Provided best inspection practices and training for GDOT construction inspectors
- Investigated current inspection practices for highway, roadway, and bridge projects
- Compared existing inspection practices and recommended new inspection procedures
- Created self-paced collection of instructional modules and certification exams
- Developed self-paced web-based training/certification system for construction inspectors