



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 3, 2005

Contact: Susie Alcorn (615) 418-9931
Pete DeLay (615) 889-0700

Stakeholders in Adequate Infrastructure Announce Group Formation Tennessee Infrastructure Alliance to Highlight State Infrastructure Needs

Nashville – A group of advocates for adequate infrastructure funding today announced the formation of the Tennessee Infrastructure Alliance (TIA), a not-for-profit 501(c) 6 corporation dedicated to highlighting Tennessee’s current and future infrastructure needs. The group, through targeted communications, activities and special events, will work to bring needed attention to the ever-growing demands on Tennessee’s infrastructure system.

TIA will concentrate its efforts on preserving current infrastructure funding, and on improving Tennessee’s transportation, mass transit, and water/wastewater infrastructure. These categories include roads, highways, bridges, water, sewer, drinking water, flood control, rail, airports and aviation, transit, navigable waterways, ports, locks, dams.

Citing the 2004 Infrastructure Needs Assessment issued by the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR), TIA Board of Directors Chairman Pete DeLay said, “Now is the time for community leaders and interested institutions to join together and issue the call for sufficient infrastructure.” The TACIR study pegged Tennessee’s current infrastructure funding needs at \$21.6 billion. “The benefits to our communities of adequate infrastructure funding lie in enhanced economic development, safety, and quality of life. If we don’t act now, we will be denying our communities the future of prosperity and safety that they deserve.”

Referring to a lengthy list of Tennessee infrastructure deficiencies identified by the American Society of Civil Engineers, DeLay urged greater attention for the state’s existing system. “If we don’t invest in adequate maintenance today, we will incur the much greater cost of rebuilding our infrastructure system in the future. With TIA’s formation, we will be focusing our policy makers’ attention on the need for long-term planning rather than year-to-year funding.”

TIA is launching a statewide campaign to add other natural stakeholders to its membership. TIA is seeking participation from community leaders and institutions with a vested interest in adequate infrastructure. "I am looking forward to a comprehensive outreach effort, and to adding to our voice the logical stakeholders from across the state", said Susie Alcorn, TIA Executive Director.

Targeted for participation will be local officials including city and county mayors, county commissioners, city alderman and council members, road superintendents, utility district managers and commissioners, chamber of commerce leaders and economic development professionals. TIA will seek input from these stakeholders on specific community needs, and will initiate advocacy efforts at the local, state and federal levels in January 2006.

"Our policy makers must be made aware of the dire consequences if we continue down the road of infrastructure neglect," DeLay continued. "Likewise, we must communicate Tennessee's excellent potential if properly fostered by sufficient infrastructure funding."

For more information, visit the TIA website at www.TNinfrastructure.org or phone (615) 463-0026.

###