

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Tennessee General Assembly

FROM: Pete Delay, Chairman

RE: TACIR Infrastructure Report

DATE: January 3, 2006

As you prepare to resume your work in Nashville next week, I write to ask that you take into consideration some recently released information that has broad and critical implications for the future of our state. Specifically, Tennessee's infrastructure has been neglected, and unless it receives adequate attention, our infrastructure will not be sufficient to meet the demands of our growing communities.

The Tennessee Advisor Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) recently issued its third statutorily mandated report "Building Tennessee's Tomorrow: Anticipating the State's Infrastructure Needs". This study, which examines demands on the state's infrastructure through 2008, notes that in all, some \$24 billion in funding will be required to address maintenance and to accommodate for projected growth.

For the first time in this biennial series of reports, TACIR provides detailed information on funding dedicated to addressing this staggering figure. Shockingly, only \$10.1 billion of the projected \$24 billion is expected to be available, according to the report.

Infrastructure is the very foundation of society, and its development and maintenance is one of the primary functions of government. Without basic infrastructure services – drinking water, sewer systems, flood control, a transportation network – the delivery of other services, such as education and health care, are impossible. Adequate infrastructure means jobs for Tennessee communities. It is the key to safety, health and quality of life.

The Tennessee Infrastructure Alliance is a new grassroots organization comprised of business and community leaders who recognize the importance of infrastructure to Tennessee's future success. In 2006, we plan to highlight Tennessee's many infrastructure needs, and to seek your help in securing necessary funding to address them. We have hired Susie Alcorn to serve as our executive director. Susie will be leading our efforts to communicate to you the implications of leaving our state's neglected infrastructure system unattended.

So as you perform your work on behalf of your communities, please keep in mind the importance of infrastructure to their success. The decisions you make in 2006 will have resounding effects for years to come. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide you with further information. Thank you for your service to Tennessee.

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