



NEWS RELEASE

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TIA Issues Analysis of Public Transportation Infrastructure Fourth in Series Details Benefits, Needs of Urban and Rural Systems

Nashville – Tennessee’s infrastructure advocacy association today released the fourth in its series of six analyses of components of the state’s extensive infrastructure system. *Tennessee Public Transportation Infrastructure Analysis* provides an in-depth look at the benefits of, and needs facing, public transportation systems that serve both Tennessee’s urban centers and the state’s rural communities.

The category of public transportation infrastructure is unique in TIA’s studies, in that transit utilizes other components of state infrastructure (e.g. roads, rail), as well as infrastructure unique to public transportation (e.g. bus depots). “Roads and bridges are infrastructure for Tennessee’s mass transit systems,” said TIA chairman Pete DeLay. “These transportation arteries are as vital to motor coaches and other high-occupancy vehicles as they are to cars.”

The study makes clear that investment in public transportation offers Tennesseans economic benefits and promotes added mobility, safety, security and environmental health. “In economic terms alone, transit means \$190 million a year to Tennessee’s economy,” said DeLay. The study point out that Tennesseans currently take 31.1 million trips on the state’s mass transit system annually, and that use is trending upward by 2-3 percent annually.

In its 25-year transportation plan for the state, the Tennessee Department of Transportation articulates a desired 120 percent increase in transit usage. TIA’s study makes clear that increased usage is a function of investment in mass transit infrastructure. Citing TDOT’s numbers, the study highlights a \$2.73 billion

in needs for urban transit infrastructure, and \$134 million for rural transit infrastructure.

“Only 28 percent of the \$14.1 billion needed to increase ridership by 120 percent by 2025 has been dedicated,” said DeLay. “Since every dollar invested in transit returns between \$2 to \$2.50 to our economy, we certainly hope our policy makers can make transit funding a greater priority.”

Public Transportation Infrastructure Analysis highlights mass transit systems across the state, including those in Memphis, Nashville and Pigeon Forge. The study also brings attention to new systems that are coming on line in Morristown, Columbia and Cookeville.

Copies of “Tennessee Public Transportation Infrastructure Analysis” are available for sale at TIA’s website: www.TNinfrastructure.org. Press can view the full report online at <http://www.tninfrastructure.org/newsroom.html>

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The Tennessee Infrastructure Alliance is a not-for-profit association of Tennessee business and community leaders and organizations dedicated to educating policy makers on infrastructure issues and advocating for adequate and consistent funding for infrastructure maintenance and improvement. For more information, visit TIA’s website at <http://www.tninfrastructure.org>.