



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: 615-200-8420

#### ***Infrastructure group cites TACIR study in call for infrastructure funding***

*Report "an alarm bell ringing in the night"*

*Officials from the Tennessee Infrastructure Alliance today pointed toward the new report on state infrastructure from the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) as evidence of the state's growing infrastructure needs. The group noted that the amount of funds needed to adequately address Tennessee's infrastructure demands through 2008 has ballooned to more than \$24 billion.*

*"This report should be an alarm bell ringing in the night for those who make policy for Tennessee communities at the local, state and federal levels of government" said TIA chairman Pete DeLay. "The message is painfully clear: if we don't address these needs now, our means of delivering the basic necessities of life will in the future be significantly hampered."*

*The report, entitled "Building Tennessee's Tomorrow: Anticipating the State's Infrastructure Needs", details specific categories of infrastructure demands, including:*

|                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Transportation &amp; Utilities</i> | <i>\$10.4 billion</i> |
| <i>Health, Safety &amp; Welfare</i>   | <i>\$5.4 billion</i>  |
| <i>Education</i>                      | <i>\$5.3 billion</i>  |
| <i>Recreation &amp; Culture</i>       | <i>\$1.8 billion</i>  |
| <i>Economic Development</i>           | <i>\$1.2 billion</i>  |
| <i>General Government</i>             | <i>\$411 million</i>  |

*"As staggering as these numbers are, what is more alarming is what the report says about the prospects of funding these projected deficiencies", said DeLay. The fifth in a series of statutorily mandated studies, this report is the first to address availability of funding. The report states that only approximately half of the needed funds will be available under current scenarios.*

*"As a society, we must get our priorities straight", said DeLay. "Without the basic means to deliver goods and services, flood control and drinking water, we cannot be successful in providing the other things our communities need, like education, healthcare and jobs."*

*TIA was founded in 2005 to educate local, state and federal policy makers on Tennessee's infrastructure needs, and to advocate for necessary funding. "This report demonstrates that an entity like TIA was certainly needed", said TIA Executive Director M.S. "Susie" Alcorn. "Every community leader and stakeholder in adequate infrastructure should participate in the effort to raise awareness of Tennessee's infrastructure needs."*

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