The objective of the Advanced Transportation Institute 2009 (ATI-09) is to introduce junior and senior high school students, with preference to traditionally underrepresented groups in engineering disciplines, to transportation careers. ATI-08 is designed to attract rising junior and senior high school students to help increase diversity within the Transportation profession. The University Transportation Center for Alabama (UTCA) and the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) Personnel Bureau will co-sponsor the Institute. It will be held in ALDOT’s headquarters complex in Montgomery, Alabama. The agenda for the week-long program includes presentations on topics like transportation careers, how to select and enter a university, and how to obtain scholarships. Additional presentations will be made by practitioners to explore various sectors of transportation, including planning, design, construction, maintenance, traffic engineering, and bridge design. There are many transportation professionals in the ALDOT headquarters complex, to provide good presentations and to serve as role models to the involved students.

In 2008 a second session of ATI was initiated at the ALDOT 5th Division offices in Tuscaloosa (ATI-5th Div). The session leaders were members of the Tuscaloosa Junior Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers. The participants were middle school and high school students, with a few even younger than that. The curriculum was shortened to only three days and featured “hands-on” competitions, a few presentations, and a field trip.

For the proposed ATI-09, the age groupings from the 2008 sessions will be retained. For ATI-09, participants will again be rising high school juniors and seniors selected from minority and female students from the Personnel Bureau’s normal recruiting area. ALDOT will recruit the students as part of its normal program of visits to high schools. The program is open to all high school students, with preference to minority and women students. The majority of students participating in the past have been from economically depressed west Alabama schools from which ALDOT recruits, and that pattern is expected to continue in 2009. For ATI-5th Div., the participants will be nominated by the Tuscaloosa Junior Chapter of NSBE.

START DATE: January 1, 2009
END DATE: December 31, 2009
TOTAL BUDGET: $34,202

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