Public transportation is integral to economic development as it facilitates trips to and from employment and educational opportunities. It is also an essential quality-of-life component for many residents as it provides vital access to shopping, healthcare, and social activities. As learned from recent hurricane events, public transportation can also play a significant role in safe and efficient evacuation during emergencies. Finally, public transportation can reduce the number of vehicle trips per individual, thereby reducing energy consumption and environmental impact. To the extent that it enhances economic and social development in conjunction with environmental preservation and energy consumption, public transportation is an essential component of a sustainable future for Alabama. The objective of the proposed project is to allow UTCA to lead a group of stakeholders through the development of a strategic vision for public transportation in the State of Alabama for the year 2030. The project will employ a participatory scenario planning approach to build and document a consensus for desired sustainable role for public transportation in Alabama. It is envisioned that the results of the project will form the basis of improved integration of public transportation into future local, regional, and state transportation policy development and decision making and ultimately a more sustainable transportation system for Alabama.

Start Date: 01/2011  End Date: 12/2011
Status: Active  Contract/Grant Number: 23306
Secondary Number: UTCA Project #11106
Total Dollars: 142342
Source Organization: University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
Date Added: 01/03/2011

**Sponsor Organization**
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
University Transportation Center for Alabama
P.O. Box 870205
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

**Performing Organization**
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering
Box 870205
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

**Project Manager**
Hardin, Michael J.
Phone: (205) 348-8901
Fax: (205) 348-2951
Email: mhardin@cba.ua.edu

**Principal Investigator**
Jones, Steven
Phone: (205) 348-3137
Fax: (205) 348-6862
Email: sjones@eng.ua.edu

Lindly, Jay
Phone: (205) 348-1724
Fax: (205) 348-6862
Email: jlindly@eng.ua.edu
Lou, Yingyan  
Phone: (205) 348-9925  
Fax: (205) 348-6862  
Email: ylou@eng.ua.edu

Anderson, Michael  
Phone: (205) 824-5028  
Fax: (205) 824-6724  
Email: mikea@cee.uah.edu

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