

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL), a member of the House Transportation Committee, today announced that the University of Alabama has been awarded a federal grant of \$916,300 for research on improving transportation technology and highway safety.

"Research and innovation are essential to the creation of a better, safer transportation system for Alabama in the 21st century. This unique program links the expertise of professors and students at all three campuses. With this grant, they will continue their research on finding less expensive, yet safer, methods for building roads and bridges and on developing vehicles with higher fuel mileage and lower emissions," said Bachus.

"This is an exciting program in which our students get hands on experience in helping to solve real world problems. Our academic centers can be such a positive force in making our world a better place," Bachus said. "Our students are not only learning skills for tomorrow's workforce, they are solving problems today."

The grant supports the University Transportation Center for Alabama (UTCA), composed of teachers and students from all three UA System campuses – the University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa), University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of Alabama at Huntsville. Its areas of focus are highway safety, construction improvements, vehicle development and educating students in new transportation technologies.

The UTCA was established by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century passed by Congress and written by members of the transportation committee in 1998. UTCA is one of 33 transportation centers funded through this program.