

WASHINGTON – The University of Alabama has been awarded a federal grant of \$655,500 today for research on improving transportation technology and highway safety, announced U.S. Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL), a member of the House Transportation Committee.

The grant supports the University Transportation Center for Alabama, 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.

"Research and innovation are essential to the creation of a better, safer transportation system for Alabama in the 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

The University Transportation Center for Alabama was established by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century passed by Congress and written by members of the transportation committee in 1998. The act also increased Alabama's annual share of federal transportation dollars by an average of \$200 million a year to \$530 million