



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW 160,000 SQUARE FOOT “GREEN” BUS OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY WILL HELP SOUTH BEND TRANSPO MEET FUTURE TRANSIT NEEDS

South Bend, Indiana, May 10, 2007— South Bend Public Transportation Corporation (TRANSPO) announces that it will build a new 160,000 square foot bus operations and maintenance facility to serve growing public transit needs in the region. Design for the new facility will incorporate sustainable design and construction strategies that will result in energy efficient building systems and a healthy work environment for employees and visitors. The facility is being designed by the team of Forum Architects, LLC, in association with RNL Design and Maintenance Design Group. The project will be designed to meet the silver level of certification as designated by the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. The construction cost on the project is estimated to be \$14,000,000 and is scheduled for completion in 2009.

The state-of-the-art facility will house all functional areas for TRANSPO’s bus operations, including administration office space, drivers’ areas, maintenance bays and shops, bus storage, training classrooms and conference areas, employee break rooms, locker areas and bus fueling and washing areas.

The project will be constructed on the site of the former Studebaker Stamping Plant, located off Sample Street at Franklin Street in South Bend. Preliminary architectural design concepts intend to capture the spirit of the former Studebaker Manufacturing Plant in the maintenance areas while creating a human scale at the main administration entryways.

“We, at TRANSPO, are thrilled to build this new ‘green’ operations and maintenance facility, which will meet the transit needs of our constituents and provide a progressive work environment for our employees. This new state-of-the-art facility will greatly enhance TRANSPO’s ability to provide safe, clean, comfortable and reliable transportation to the citizens of South Bend and Mishawaka, said William “Rick” Brown, general manager for TRANSPO.



TRANSPO presently operates from a maintenance operations and administration facility established in the 1880s. Although the building has undergone numerous renovations, it has surpassed its useful life.

The maintenance repair area of the current facility cannot sufficiently meet the service demands of TRANSPO's growing bus fleet. In addition, the current building was not designed to accommodate the wider body style of buses that presently make up our fleet. This project will also provide TRANSPO with new administrative offices, which are needed to accommodate its growing staff. The current facility lacks the capacity to effectively house the number of employees required to manage the agency's expanding operations or allow for future staff development.

“We look forward to working with TRANSPO on this innovative facility that will ‘walk the talk’ of public transportation, which is contributing to healthy environments, adopting energy efficient alternatives, and working for the greater good of the community, “ said George Weber, principal of Forum Architects. “Also, the new facility will create a great place to work, which should help TRANSPO increase employee retention and productivity rates, adding to overall operations savings in the future,” Weber added.

The South Bend Public Transportation Corporation (TRANSPO) is a municipal corporation established under Indiana Code 36-9-4-11 which provides transportation services for the citizens of South Bend and Mishawaka, Indiana. With a fleet of fifty-two (52) buses, four (4) Trolleys, and a work force of approximately one hundred thirty (130) employees, the Corporation operates an extensive system of bus routes that serve the two cities six days a week. TRANSPO serves an area of approximately sixty-eight (68) square miles with a population of more than 155,000. In addition to an extensive fixed route system, TRANSPO also offers paratransit (ACCESS) service to those individuals unable to use the fixed route service. The ACCESS service consists of nine (9) vehicles providing curb-to-curb service six (6) days a week.



Forum Architects is located in South Bend, Indiana and has been in practice for over 35 years. With an expanding staff of professional, technical, and supporting personnel, supplemented by outside consultants expert in their fields, Forum Architects has established its expertise in many areas. Over the years, Forum Architects' capabilities have been developed in the institutional, educational, healthcare, office facilities, and commercial fields. Although traditional architectural and engineering services are the foundation of its business, Forum Architects also offers its clients a wide range of services. For more information about Forum Architects, LLC, please visit www.forumarchitectsllc.com.

RNL is an integrated full service architectural firm with offices in Denver, Los Angeles, Phoenix and Dubai, serving clients locally, nationally and internationally. RNL specializes in transit architecture and sustainable design and has more than 60 LEED accredited professionals on its staff. RNL offers clients a continuum of design services, including architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, urban design and planning, and engineering. For more information about RNL, please visit www.rnldesign.com.

Maintenance Design Group is a national planning and consultant specializing in transit and public works maintenance and operations facility projects. MDG provides programming, functional design, site master planning and equipment selection and layout. MDG has completed more than 350 maintenance facility projects nationwide. MDG has offices in Denver, Houston and Baltimore. For more information, please visit www.maintenancedesigngroup.com.

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