



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 4, 2011

CONTACT:

Harry Reed, CRTPA Executive Director, (850) 891-6800

Bill Behenna, City Communications Department, (850) 891-8533

Mary Leslie, Leon County Public Information Office, (850) 606-5300

Lafayette Street Pedestrian Tunnel Grand Opening

The Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) today formally opened the recently completed Lafayette Street Pedestrian Tunnel. Leon County Board of County Commissioners Chairman John E. Dailey, Tallahassee City Commissioner Nancy Miller and CRTPA Chairman Doug Croley, who provided remarks at the grand opening event, were joined by other current and former local government officials, residents from adjacent neighborhoods and representatives of the Parkway District retail and commercial zone.

Coordinated by the CRTPA and built by the Florida Department of Transportation at a cost of \$1,189,369, the pedestrian tunnel provides a safe passage for pedestrians under the CSX Railroad crossing over Lafayette Street. The facility was funded by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as a 'shovel-ready' project. It completes the final link of the sidewalk along Lafayette Street, providing direct access to residential and retail areas to the east and office buildings and the under-construction Cascade Park to the west. The City of Tallahassee has assumed maintenance of the facility.

Today's grand opening event also involved the participation of the Indian Head Acres, Myers Park and Woodland Drives neighborhoods, which sit to the immediate east of the tunnel along and south of Lafayette Street. Also taking part in today's ceremony were representatives from the recently created Parkway District, an area of fine arts and retail

interests along Apalachee Parkway and Lafayette Street. This evening, the Parkway District is helping to kick off the inaugural run of the Tallahassee Art Showcase Trolley with routes to local art galleries, wine tasting and entertainment venues.

The Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency oversees long-range transportation planning and development issues in a four-county area. Members include elected officials from Gadsden, Leon, Jefferson and Wakulla Counties, the Cities of Midway, Quincy and Tallahassee, the Town of Havana and the Leon County School Board. For more information, contact CRTPA at (850) 891-6800 or visit www.crtpa.org.

###

Bill Behenna
Senior Public Information Officer
City of Tallahassee
Department of Communications
850.891.8534 (o)
850.559.1844 (c)
bill.behenna@talgov.com