DATE: 09/24/2020  PROJECT AREA: Special Projects

TITLE: Impacts of COVID-19 on the Transport Sector and Mitigation Measures for its Sustainability

PROBLEM STATEMENT:
The ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and its continuous spread and the implementation measures (lockdown, shelter-in, curfew, social distancing rules, etc.) have had huge implications on the mobility and connectivity of people and goods and the continuity of transport services in all modes of transportation. The restricted movements of people and freights have cascading impacts on the economic activities and supply chains of all cities, regions, and countries in the entire world. Considering the various uncertainties and unknowns about this virus and its short-term and long-term impacts, the proposed study will conduct extensive surveys to hear from transportation industry experts and users. In particular, primary modes of transportation (i.e., roadway, railway, maritime, and air) will be considered in this study. The findings of the study will be summarized and necessary measures will be recommended so that the long-term sustainability of transportation sectors is maintained.

OBJECTIVES:
Major objectives are to survey the transportation industry experts, analyze the collected data, and provide recommendations so toward achieving long-term sustainability of transportation sectors.

FORM OF RESEARCH IMPLEMENTATION AND RETURN ON INVESTMENT:
The main deliverable of this project will a technical report containing the recommendations toward achieving the long-term sustainability of transportation sectors in Arkansas in the event of a future pandemic.

Transportation industries will be more prepared, thus they will be more resilient in the future.

Estimated Project Duration: 12 Months

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Standing Subcommittee Ranking: 6/9

Advisory Council Ranking: 27

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