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MEDIA CONTACT

Brian Atkinson
(205) 532-0079

**Fleet management workshop makes stop in
Birmingham**

Operators learn tips to deal with difficult economy

Hoover, Alabama – A nationally recognized fleet management workshop made a pit stop at the Hoover Public Safety Center today to talk with public officials, business leaders, and fleet operators.

The Hoover workshop was part of a national tour aimed to increase fleet efficiencies and promote better communication of fleet practices. The tour continues on to Los Angeles after today with seven more workshops planned through the end of July.

"Hoover does a terrific job with its fleet management," said Tom Johnson, founder of the '100 Best Fleets' award program. "We wanted to utilize their example as a way to spread more efficient practices to other fleets across Alabama."

The Hoover Fleet Facility was recently recognized by "The 100 Best Fleets in North America" program for its effectiveness and emphasis on utilizing alternative fuels.

"These workshops are a great opportunity for fleet managers," said Mark Bentley, executive director of the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition. "The information provided not only allows fleets to save money in these difficult economic times, but it also allows them to explore emerging technologies as our nation pushes towards an increased utilization of alternative fuels."

At the one-day program, attendees learned tips to lower operating costs while improving the use of their limited resources. One of the "breakthrough ideas" presented explained a technological advancement that saves fleets on fuel consumption. In the wake of last year's gasoline and diesel prices spiking over \$4.00 per gallon, the process could mean tremendous savings for governments and businesses.

Other topics covered during the event included the effects of the current economic crisis on fleets, the use of alternative fuels in fleet operations, and roundtable discussions on issues specifically affecting Alabama fleets.

Workshop presenters represented fleets and fleet management companies from across the United States. Hoover Mayor Tony Petelos discussed communicating fleet needs within a municipality. Steve Riley, the assistant director of fleet operations for the City of Atlanta, presented information on mission critical elements, grants, and templates for implementing environmentally-friendly fleet practices. Tom Johnson, detailed leadership techniques for successful fleet professionals.

The event was hosted through a partnership between *Government Fleet Magazine*, "The 100 Best Fleets in North America" program, and the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition (ACFC).