



PRESS RELEASE

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UNDERSTANDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE AROUND US

Scholarly Presses Offer Bibliographic Resource

NEW YORK, NY (October 16, 2007) – Our basic civil infrastructure remains essentially invisible to most of us—until it fails. The bridge collapse in Minneapolis in August 2007 was a horrifying reminder of the importance of infrastructure planning and maintenance to the public weal. Setbacks on major public works projects, overstrained power grids, the privatization of state turnpikes, and the danger posed by both natural disasters and terrorism to cities and transportation hubs are related issues facing communities around the world.

A new bibliography on *Civil Infrastructure* sheds some light on the challenges faced by officials, engineers, and the public in this area. Produced by the **Books for Understanding** program of the Association of American University Presses (AAUP), the online resource features more than 70 works of scholarship on infrastructure issues from general planning to roads and highways to public utilities systems.

The bibliography is available at:

<http://aaupnet.org/news/bfu/infrastructure/list.html>

Titles include such recent work as Barry B. LePatner's *Broken Buildings, Busted Budgets: How to Fix America's Trillion-Dollar Construction Industry* (Chicago, 2007) and essential historical data such as *An International Sourcebook of Automobile Dependence in Cities, 1960-1990*, by Jeffrey R. Kenworthy and Felix B. Laube (Colorado, 1999).

Books for Understanding is a free public service of AAUP to help librarians, journalists, educators, and interested readers find the best books on current events. The program highlights one of the highest values of university presses: to publish top research and scholarship in all fields regardless of immediate commercial potential. Often the most complete and illuminating background research and knowledge for a breaking news story is only available in scholarly books from presses committed to the public interest.

The Association of American University Presses is the world's largest organization of nonprofit scholarly publishers. AAUP is dedicated to the support of creative and effective scholarly communications. Through its programs and information resources, AAUP helps its members fulfill their common commitments to scholarship, the academy, and society. Visit the AAUP Web site, www.aaupnet.org, to learn more about the Association and its members

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