Northern Territory Transport Minister, Delia Lawrie, will meet with transport ministers from around the county in Canberra today to discuss Australia’s transport security strategies and practices.

Ms Lawrie is attending at the invitation of the Deputy Prime Minister, Mark Vaile, to discuss the Commonwealth’s contribution to the Tiger Brennan Drive extension.

Ministers will receive briefings from the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) on the current security environment.

The Inspector of Transport Security, Mr Mick Palmer, has conducted an assessment of surface transport security in Australia and he will report to ministers on his findings.

“The chances of a terrorist attack on public transport systems in the Northern Territory is remote, but we need to remain cautious,” said Ms Lawrie.

“Public transport has been targeted by terrorists in places like London and Madrid and our counter terrorism measures need to constantly assessed, monitored and updated.

“Our Darwin bus fleet now has closed circuit television cameras (CCTV) installed which has certainly enhanced security for passengers and drivers.”

While in Canberra Ms Lawrie has a separate meeting scheduled with Mark Vaile to raise pressing Territory transport and road issues.

“It has been recently announced that the Commonwealth Government has $19 billion to spend and in the lead up to the election we will be putting the Territory’s case very strongly,” she said.

The Territory Government has submitted costings for the Tiger Brennan extension on a 50-50 funding basis as originally agreed. The Member for Solomon, Dave Tollner, has all but guaranteed that the extra funding required will be forth coming.

“I will be asking the Transport Minister to provide the funding sooner rather than later to help alleviate the traffic problems between Palmerston and Darwin and improve access to the Port.”

Contact: Nikola Lekias 0438 323660