



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515

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November 20, 2003

CREATE JOBS!! COSPONSOR H.R. 3550

Dear Colleague:

Today 73 Members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, on a bipartisan basis, introduced a bill to provide **\$375 billion** in federal highway construction, safety, and transit funding for the next six years.

“The Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users” (H.R. 3550) is a landmark bill that will significantly increase highway and transit funding in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the territories.

From 2004 to 2009, H.R. 3550 will increase federal funding for highway and highway safety programs to \$306.2 billion, and increase transit funding to \$69.2 billion. The previous six-year funding bill (1998-2003) authorized \$177 billion for highway and highway safety programs and \$41 billion for transit programs.

Why are these funding increases important?

Aging and Decaying Infrastructure: First, much of our transportation infrastructure is in poor condition. Thirty two percent of our major roads are in poor or mediocre condition, 28 percent of our bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, and 29 percent of the nation’s bus fleet and maintenance facilities are in poor or substandard condition.

Congestion Costs Are Enormous: Second, congestion is affecting our quality of life and costing our nation \$69.5 billion a year in 75 large cities alone. Poor roads and congestion cost the average commuter more than \$1,100 a year in lost time, wasted fuel, and car repairs.

Safety Crisis: Third, we are facing a national transportation safety crisis. More than 42,000 people die on our roads and highways each year. Nearly one-third of all fatal crashes are caused by substandard road conditions and roadside hazards and this is unacceptable.

New Jobs Are Needed: Lastly, this bipartisan legislation will create 1.7 million new jobs throughout the nation by 2009. This will be one of the most significant job-creating bills you will ever have the opportunity to vote on.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's 2002 Conditions and Performance Report indicates that a federal investment of \$375 billion is needed over the next six years to maintain the condition of our current transportation systems and begin to address our growing safety, infrastructure and congestion problems.

H.R. 3550 provides this level of funding.

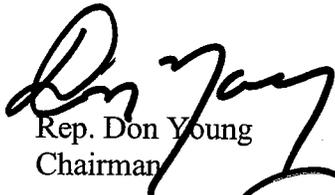
H.R. 3550 will also increase the minimum guarantee return for "Donor States" by increasing the minimum guaranteed for federal highway programs from 90.5 percent to 95.0 percent of revenue contributed by 2009.

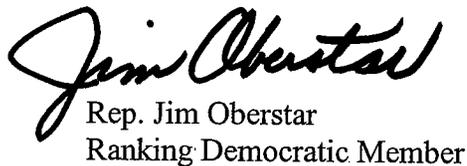
The Administration also introduced a \$247 billion, six-year highway and transit funding bill – titled "SAFETEA".

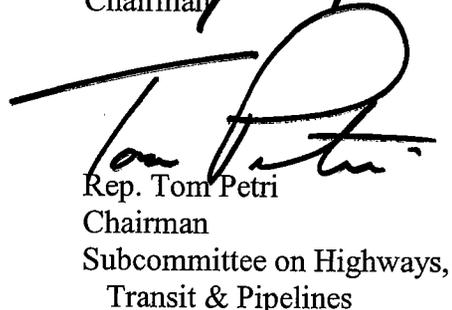
The chart on the back of this letter compares the highway and transit funding levels for each state under TEA 21, the Administration's proposed legislation SAFETEA, and H.R. 3550.

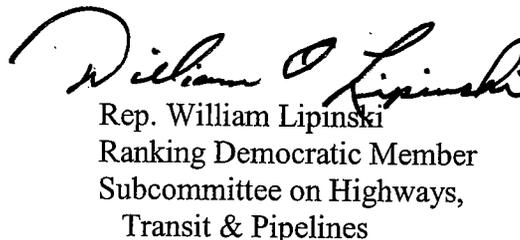
If highway and transit funding, new safety programs, and creating new jobs are important to your district and state, we strongly encourage you to cosponsor H.R. 3550.

To cosponsor H.R. 3550, please contact Debbie Callis at 225-9446.


Rep. Don Young
Chairman


Rep. Jim Oberstar
Ranking Democratic Member


Rep. Tom Petri
Chairman
Subcommittee on Highways,
Transit & Pipelines


Rep. William Lipinski
Ranking Democratic Member
Subcommittee on Highways,
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