



# **Chairman Tom Latham**

*Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban  
Development, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations*

## **Oversight Hearing – Department of Transportation Modes April 3, 2014 Opening Statement As Prepared**

The Subcommittee will come to order. This morning we will focus on the President's Fiscal Year 2015 budget requests for seven DOT modal administrations. As you know, we heard from Secretary Foxx on March 12, and we will be able to delve deeper and ask more specific questions today.

Our witnesses today hail from seven modal administrations. I would like to welcome –

- Administrator Michael Huerta from the Federal Aviation Administration;
- Deputy Administrator Greg Nadeau from the Federal Highway Administration;
- Administrator Joseph Szabo from the Federal Railroad Administration;
- Deputy Administrator Therese McMillan from the Federal Transit Administration;
- Administrator Cynthia Quarterman from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration;
- Administrator Anne Ferro from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration;
- Acting Administrator Paul Jaenichen, Sr., Maritime Administration

Welcome all. We do have a lot of issues to discuss today. Not only are the surface programs in need of reauthorization, but the Highway Account of the Trust Fund is expected to go broke in August. Further, the Administration's surface transportation budgets propose to shift approximately \$4 billion worth of existing programs (\$6 billion if you look at the expansions and increases) from the discretionary General Fund to a "mandatory" not-yet-in-existence "Transportation Trust Fund." We also face the challenge of safe transportation of domestic crude oil, production of which has increased 40-fold over the last 5 years. In the aviation arena, we want to discuss FAA's efforts to advance NextGen and ensure air traffic operations are efficient. And of course, we want our funding decisions to result in the most efficient and safest systems possible across all transportation modes.

Chairman Rogers and Chairwoman Mikulski will abide by the Ryan-Murray agreement for FY 15, which translates into relatively flat budgets this year and well into the future. As we consider your request for FY 15, this Committee will move forward honoring the bipartisan agreement, and the THUD bill will conform to our portion of the \$1016 allocation. To meet this goal, we need to have an honest discussion about how we continue to provide money in the most efficient and effective manner.

We have received your statements. Because we have a significant amount of ground to cover today and limited time, I ask that our witnesses dispense with reading opening statements and instead they will be entered into the record. I will also keep my remarks to a minimum, so we can advance to questions.

But first, I recognize my friend and colleague, the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Mr. Pastor for his opening statement.

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## Closing

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Thank you for your time today.

I know we will have a number of questions for the record and I'm sure other members of the subcommittee do, too. I ask that you and your staff work expeditiously to get those answered, cleared and returned to us within 30 days. The answers will help us craft the funding recommendations for the FY 15 bill.

Mr. Pastor – anything to add?

I look forward to seeing everyone on the morning of April 10<sup>th</sup> when we meet with HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan.

With that, the subcommittee is adjourned.