



# **Chairman Mario Diaz-Balart**

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

## **Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Hearing – Department of Transportation February 26, 2015 Opening Statement As Prepared**

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The Subcommittee will come to order.

Today, we welcome Secretary Anthony Foxx from the Department of Transportation to discuss the general Fiscal Year 2016 budget request.

DOT is requesting a total of \$77.2 billion in new budgetary resources in Fiscal Year 2016 – an almost 40 percent increase over 2015. That’s beyond ambitious. This budget might border on fantasy when you consider that EVERY program in DOT is in need of reauthorization, the trust funds are going broke, and we are ALL still bound by the Budget Control Act sequester order.

So we all have a few challenges here – funding, timing, and reauthorization. Your budget makes some optimistic assumptions on all three. While we haven’t seen the GROW Act or any legislative reauthorization proposal to continue the surface programs beyond May 31, 2015, I had a déjà vu experience reading about your budget. However, staff advised me I couldn’t use the phrase “déjà vu” in this hearing as the previous chairman used it last year. Apparently the 2016 budget and reauthorization package is not all that different from the two previous attempts.

I am amazed at the amount of work your staff has put into crafting these justifications for a budget that this Congress can in no way fulfill. I believe everyone on this subcommittee, and I’d venture most in Congress believe our country needs a robust, viable, and stable transportation infrastructure funding method. We need to make investments and improvements in the infrastructure we have, and build for what we need. I share that goal with you.

But while your proposal doesn’t need to adhere to the realities of funding, timing and reauthorization, ours does. I’m asking you to work with me to sift through all of this to determine what needs to be done, but just as importantly, what can be done for the fiscal year 2016 appropriation. I thank you for your testimony today, in hopes that we can start that dialogue.

Before we get to your opening statement, I will recognize the Ranking Member of this subcommittee, the Gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Price, for his opening statement. Mr. Price.

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