



Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Bill Shuster
Chairman

Nick J. Rahall, III
Ranking Member

Christopher P. Bertram, Staff Director

Testimony of Chairman Bill Shuster

James H. Zoia, Democrat Staff Director

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Madam Chairman, Ranking Member Brady, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee on House Administration in support of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's budget request for fiscal year 2014.

The Committee is committed to ensuring that every tax dollar goes to good use, both at the agencies we oversee, and within our own offices. We are reducing our overhead. By using less expensive technology options, we have cut both our capital expenditures and operating costs.

In an era of constrained budgets, we must focus our spending on those things that are necessary to advance our agenda. The greatest resource, and greatest expense, of our Committee is our knowledgeable and experienced staff. These subject matter experts provide me counsel on the complex issues within the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee staff not only benefits our members, but also serves as a resource for this entire body.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is looking forward to a productive 113th Congress. We have work to do. Our legislative agenda for the next two years includes addressing the Nation's aging water infrastructure in a Water Resources Development Act, reauthorizing surface transportation programs set to expire next year, and reforming passenger rail. Additionally, I will seek to bring a FEMA reform bill to the floor.

In addition to our major legislative agenda, the Committee has developed a significant oversight plan. Last Congress, the Committee passed major authorizations that now require oversight. As the current Administration implements these laws, we will ensure that they do so in an efficient, cost-effective manner. We will seek to ensure administration rulemaking follow Congressional intent. The Committee will perform oversight of all the programs under our jurisdiction, including Amtrak, the Coast Guard, and EPA. In addition, much of the \$51 million in emergency supplemental appropriations related to Hurricane Sandy goes to agencies within our purview, and we plan assertive oversight to ensure this money goes to its intended purpose.

Transportation programs are inherently partnerships with states and local interests. It is necessary to develop these programs with outside-the-beltway partners. Surveying the country's highways, waterways, railroads, seaports, and airports provides the Committee with context for our policies. Hearing from users that fund and implement programs of our jurisdiction is

necessary to make informed decisions. It is our responsibility to educate the Committee and the House on the National transportation systems. The travel allotment in the budget allows us to do so.

Together with my friend and ranking member Nick Rahall, I have put compiled a Committee funding request that is \$773,000 below last year's authorized level. This level is about 5% above the previous Congress's actual spending. Last Congress was the only chaired by my predecessor, and because of his short tenure, he made few staffing additions as he transitioned from Ranking Member to Chairman. This was reflected in his budget.

With regards to allocation of resources between the Majority and Minority, we will continue provide two-third of the personnel budget to the Majority, and one-third to the Minority. This is consistent with previous congresses. The majority and minority will continue to fairly share a budget for non-personnel expenses.

Madam Chairman, before I yield back to allow you to hear from Ranking Member Rahall, I would ask you to hear me out on one of my ideas to make the House office builds more hospitable: if House office building walls were stenciled with the names of the corresponding streets, visitors would be able to better navigate this sometimes confusing complex.

Thank you for providing me an opportunity to present the Committee's budget. I would be happy to answer any questions.