

THE HONORABLE RICK LARSEN
RANKING MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
FEBRUARY 11, 2025

Chairman Steil, Ranking Member Morelle, and distinguished Members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to join Chairman Graves in presenting the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's budget request for the 119th Congress.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has a long history of bipartisan cooperation, with both sides realizing the importance of investing in our nation's infrastructure, ensuring the safety of our transportation systems and creating jobs. Chairman Graves and I continued this tradition in the 118th Congress. We passed bipartisan legislation reauthorizing the Federal Aviation Administration, which will provide critical safety enhancements, grow America's aviation workforce by creating good-paying jobs, invest in resilient infrastructure at U.S. airports of all sizes, sets clear priorities for advancing innovative aviation technologies and provides robust protections for airline customers.

We also passed the sixth consecutive bipartisan Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which will invest in and protect our communities from flooding and droughts, restore our environment and ecosystems, and keep our nation competitive by supporting our ports and harbors. WRDA 2024 also included provisions to grow the economy and create jobs by reauthorizing the Economic Development Administration, improving operations of the General Services Administration's Public Buildings Service and redistributing \$1.8 billion in unused funding from the Department of Transportation's TIFIA program to local transportation projects.

As Chairman Graves noted, we have a full legislative agenda for the 119th Congress. First and foremost, surface transportation programs expire in September 2026, and the Committee will need to act. We also intend to reauthorize the U.S. Coast Guard, Maritime Administration, Federal Maritime Commission, and the Pipeline and the Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's pipeline safety programs.

For us to do our jobs for the American people, we request that you fund the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure at a modest increase of seven percent over the funding levels from the 118th Congress. This funding will be used to ensure we can retain the oversight and infrastructure specialists who can help us achieve our objectives and accommodate an increase in travel costs.

The Committee has a robust and bipartisan travel plan to include both domestic and international travel that will help inform our legislative agenda and allow for greater oversight of the projects and programs under the jurisdiction of the Committee.

As in the past, the Committee will continue to provide two-thirds of the personnel budget to the Majority, and one-third to the Minority. The non-personnel budget, like the travel budget, will continue to be shared fairly between the Majority and Minority.

I look forward to continuing a strong partnership with Chairman Graves in the 119th Congress. With your help, I know the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will achieve our shared objectives and be one of the most productive committees in Congress.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee on House Administration today. I am happy to answer any questions you might have.