

**Chairman Graves Statement on the Committee's Budget  
Submission:**

- Thank you, Chairman Steil and Ranking Member Morelle.
- I appreciate the opportunity to share with you the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's budget request for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress.
- In consultation with the Ranking Member, the Committee has requested a 7 percent increase over funding levels for the Committee last Congress.
- That level reflects an increase that will provide the Committee with the necessary resources to tackle our aggressive agenda for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress.
- On the legislative front, we have already begun discussions on reauthorizing several major agencies and programs under the Committee's vast jurisdiction.
- These include the following:
  - The Coast Guard for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025;
  - The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA);

- **The Committee also plans to undertake the regular review of Army Corps projects and programs and other water infrastructure legislation.**
- **And the Committee's biggest undertaking, the reauthorization of our nation's surface transportation programs, which are set to expire on October 1, 2026.**
- **Equally important, the Committee must provide oversight over the many laws and funding that was passed last Congress including the following:**
  - **Implementaiton of the 5-year FAA reauthorization;**
  - **WRDA 2024;**
  - **Reauthorization of the Economic Development Agency (EDA) which I might point out was successfully reauthorized for the first time since 2008;**
  - **And our Public buildings reform efforts to ensure efficient utilization of federal real estate.**
- **As part of developing our robust infrastructure agenda, the Committee plans to travel extensively to conduct field hearings, roundtables and listening sessions across America and provide opportunities**

**to visit and review infrastructure projects and programs.**

- **Infrastructure impacts every corner of the country, and each community has diverse needs. We intend to get out there and see that firsthand as we did in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.**
- **In addition, the budget accounts for the fact that the staff salary cap was again raised, and the Committee is lucky to have many long tenured staffers with vast institutional knowledge.**
- **Our proposed budget will help the Committee with staff retention but also allows us to be competitive in bringing on new staff to deliver on our agenda this Congress.**
- **Particularly on the Majority side, we are having to compete directly with the new Administration and new Senate Majority to bring in and retain top staff.**
- **It is in the best interest of the House for both sides to continue to have strong teams that are so necessary for the important work we do.**
- **With that, I look forward to answering your questions and I yield back the remainder of my time.**