



Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen

House Committee on Appropriations

FY 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill
Full Committee Markup
July 17, 2017
Opening Statement As Prepared

The bill that you and your Subcommittee have crafted is a solid bill that will help improve our transportation infrastructure and ensure that housing is available for those in greatest need. The United States has the largest economy in the world, and we must have safe, reliable, and efficient infrastructure to support and sustain this.

Keeping America open to business and pleasure requires safe access to our roads, rails, ports, and airports – so this bill affects us all. That’s why this bill includes \$76.7 billion in total budgetary resources to repair, modernize, and grow our transportation systems.

This includes funding for the Federal-aid Highway Program – which will provide much needed growth and improvements to America’s highway infrastructure.

For the FAA, the legislation includes \$16.6 billion. This total provides full funding for air traffic control personnel – keeping U.S. airspace safe for all travelers.

The bill also fully funds NextGen – building on several years of investment to modernize and enhance our airspace and ease congestion.

Other Department of Transportation funding ensures that communities can build and maintain their mass transit systems and increases the productivity of our ports. Safety is also a priority in this bill, with responsible increases provided for DOT’s various transportation safety programs and essential funding maintained for rail safety.

Within the Department of Housing and Urban Development, funding is maintained to serve our most vulnerable citizens – the elderly, the disabled, and veterans – and to encourage homeownership and the pursuit of the American dream.

The bill also supports community planning and development programs – including Community Development Block Grants – that will encourage economic development and improve the quality of life for Americans across the country.

In closing, I want to thank Chairman Diaz-Balart, Ranking Member Price, all the members of the Subcommittee, and the hard-working staff for putting together this bill. I ask that my colleagues support this important measure today.

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