



Chairman Mario Diaz-Balart

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

**FY 2017 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Appropriations Bill – Subcommittee Markup
May 18, 2016
Opening Statement As Prepared**

Good morning. Today I am pleased to present the fiscal year 2017 THUD bill to the Subcommittee for your consideration, with the goal of a favorable motion to the Full Committee. In total resources, the bill before you today provides \$115.9 billion in budget authority and obligation limitation for the various programs in the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies. CBO has scored us at a 302(b) level of \$58.19 billion in discretionary budget authority - \$889 million above the enacted FY 2016 levels.

I want to thank Ranking Member Price for his attention and commitment to the challenges and opportunities our agencies provide in their missions to the American people.

I'd like to thank Ranking Member Lowey for her contributions to making the transportation safety and lead housing programs a priority for this bill, and I'm hopeful that she will support moving this bill to Full Committee.

And really, the credit for much of this bill should go to Chairman Rogers. We were able to make these vital investments in transportation systems and communities because of the very generous allocation to this subcommittee.

The bill was made available online yesterday morning, and your staff had the opportunity to pour over the bill and the report yesterday afternoon, so you know what we are proposing.

This bill makes substantial investments in our transportation infrastructure across every mode of DOT, including meeting the oblim levels contained in the FAST Act for surface programs. Kudos to T&I for getting a multi-surface bill done.

Further, this bill does NOT include a contract authority rescission as proposed in the budget to offset any spending.

Housing programs are funded at levels sufficient to continue providing a HUD housing option to all currently-assisted families, with increases in the homeless programs.

We continue current year funding levels for community development and other housing programs with increases to the Lead program.

Finally I'd like to thank all of you, the members and staff of this subcommittee, for your contributions in the hearings and your letters. Ranking Member Price and I worked to address as many of your concerns as possible through the funding levels, and bill and report language. And

the staff – I'd like to thank all the staff for your hard work, diligence, and cooperation to make this process work smoothly.

I would prefer if members held on to amendments until Full Committee, but I welcome your comments and I would ask for your support in moving this bill to the next step in the process. Please let the staff know of any amendments you are interested in offering prior to the meeting of the Full Committee. But I think we have a good bill here, and it's worthy of our support.

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