



Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen

House Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee Markup – FY 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill

July 11, 2017

Opening Statement As Prepared

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the time and for all your hard work and that of members of the Subcommittee and this excellent staff to make this mark-up possible. I am going to exercise the prerogatives as Chair and reserve my more expansive remarks for full committee.

Our country's economic growth is dependent on the efficient and safe movement of people and products across critical land, sea, and air transportation infrastructure. This bill provides important investments to continue to improve existing infrastructure and advance new projects to meet critical needs.

Investments in this bill will provide funding for our Federal-aid Highways Program, help address the \$38 billion backlog in Amtrak's Northeast Corridor infrastructure improvements, and fund transit formula grants to help communities build and maintain mass transit systems.

Specifically, Transit Formula grants are funded at \$9.7 billion to ensure continued support for Thousands of local transit agencies, including dozens in New Jersey.

Elsewhere, the FAA is funded at \$16.6 billion - \$435 million over the Administration's budget request - to fully fund air traffic operations and NextGen modernization programs.

This funding bill also prioritizes safety programs. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration see increases from their FY17 funding levels.

Additionally, this legislation provides important housing investments for our most vulnerable people and families, including veterans and those who are disabled, so they have access to quality public housing options and keep a roof over their heads.

I urge its adoption. Once again, I want to thank the Chair, the Ranking, and all members of the Subcommittee for producing such a strong bill on such short notice.

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