



Chairman Mario Diaz-Balart

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

**Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief
November 30, 2017
Opening Statement As Prepared**

The Subcommittee will come to order. This morning we welcome: Brandye Hendrickson, Acting Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, and Butch Waidelich, Executive Director of the Federal Highway Administration, to testify on the Administration's request for additional funding for hurricane recovery efforts in 2018.

The 2017 hurricane season inflicted billions and billions of dollars worth of damage and economic loss in several states and territories – including my own home state of Florida, and we look forward to working with the Administration to rebuild those communities devastated by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

The hearing today will focus on the \$415,500,000 requested for the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief program. This program supports both urgent repairs needed in response to a disaster as well as rebuilding projects needed for long-term recovery. The beauty of the program is that it leverages the regular highway program to get projects moving quickly and responsibly. We look forward to learning more about what is funded in the request and understanding how this program will serve the needs of communities impacted by these terrible storms.

Thank you for your appearance before us today. And now I would like to yield to my friend and Ranking Member, Mr. Price.

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