



## **Chairman Mario Diaz-Balart**

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

### **FY2019 Budget Hearing – FTA, FHWA, MARAD**

#### **Opening Statement (as prepared)**

**April 26, 2018**

The Subcommittee will come to order.

Today we welcome the leadership of three Department of Transportation modal administrations to discuss the Fiscal Year 2019 budget request. We're pleased to have –

- Admiral Mark Buzby, Administrator of the U.S. Maritime Administration;
- Brandye Hendrickson, Acting Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration; and
- Jane Williams, Acting Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration.

Each of you play a critical role in maintaining the strength of our nation's transportation infrastructure – from our roads and bridges, to our trains, bus systems, and ports.

The fiscal year 2019 budget request proposes \$696 million for the Maritime Administration, \$45.8 billion in total budgetary resources for the Federal Highway Administration, and \$11.1 billion in total budgetary resources for the Federal Transit Administration – all below the 2018 enacted levels.

As I've said on multiple occasions, this budget request was developed before the recent bipartisan budget Act that lifted sequester for two years and raised the discretionary budget caps.

So the budget request is in some respects outdated. I don't think you'll see a lot of support on this committee for deep cuts to important DOT programs. However, we still owe you a fair hearing.

As you know, last month the President signed the FY 2018 Omnibus, which was negotiated by the House, the Senate, and the White House. I'm proud that this bill provides a significant down payment on our nation's future by investing nearly \$11 billion in new transportation and housing infrastructure.

This includes:

- an additional \$2.5 billion in discretionary highway funding to rebuild our nation's roads and bridges;
- \$2.6 billion for Capital Investment Grants to support major transit projects – the highest level ever funded;
- \$400 million to help communities modernize their bus systems;
- Another \$400 million for transit systems to maintain a state of good repair; and
- \$980 million for the Maritime Administration, including \$300 million for a new schoolship, and \$121 million for the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

What we just did in the Omnibus showed that this committee does real infrastructure.

And as we now turn to writing our Fiscal Year 19 bill, we will look to make further strategic investments in our infrastructure, all while remaining accountable to the taxpayer.

This is an infrastructure committee. We will continue to move our country in the right direction with investments that help our communities prosper.

And I want you to know that each of you will play an important role in this effort.

Thank you for being here and I look forward to your testimony.

And now I would like to yield to my friend and Ranking Member, Mr. Price.

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