



**Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen**  
*House Committee on Appropriations*

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**Appropriations Subcommittee Mark-up  
Opening Statement (as prepared)  
FY 2019 Transportation-HUD  
May 16, 2018**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman Diaz-Balart, for the time.

Today, the Committee continues its appropriations process with the mark-up of the FY 2019 Transportation-Housing and Urban Development bill.

For too long, the transportation infrastructure in our nation has been neglected, which has dampened economic growth and efficiency.

This bill will provide a much-needed boost in funding for improvements in our infrastructure system – roads, rail, transit systems, air and waterways.

It also supports core community and housing programs to ensure shelter for our most vulnerable citizens, and to provide better opportunity for our local communities to thrive.

I am particularly pleased that the bill enhances rail safety by funding inspectors and training, plus maintenance and safety investments to the physical rail infrastructure, to help ensure the safety of passengers and local communities.

Amtrak is funded at \$1.9 billion, of which \$650 million is for the Northeast Corridor.

Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair grants are funded at \$500 million, \$250 million *above* the fiscal year 2018 level and will address critical rail investments nationwide and on the Northeast Corridor – needs that must be addressed to sustain current rail services.

In other areas, the bill supports:

- **Vouchers for Persons with Disabilities** to serve 30,000 additional non-elderly disabled households;
- **Vouchers for Veterans** – In addition to all current HUD-VASH vouchers, \$40 million is included to house additional homeless veterans;
- **Vouchers for Families with Children** – to help families with children break the cycle of poverty and achieve economic independence.

And the CDBG program lives!

Overall, this is a good bill and I urge its approval.

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Mr. Chairman, in coming weeks, we will continue our oversight and funding process. It is our intention to move as expeditiously as possible to complete all 12 of the fiscal year '19 Appropriations bills.

I commend you, Mr. Chairman, the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Mr. Price of North Carolina, our full Committee Ranking Member, Ms. Lowey, all the members of the Subcommittee and the professional staff - on both sides of the aisle - who have worked so hard to make this mark-up possible.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

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