

**THE HONORABLE PETER A. DEFazio**  
**RANKING MEMBER**  
**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**  
**BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION**  
**FEBRUARY 4, 2015**

Chairman Miller, Ranking Member Brady, and distinguished Members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to join Chairman Shuster in presenting the budget request of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Although I have served on the Transportation Committee since first being elected to the House 28 years ago, the role of Ranking Member of the T&I Committee is new to me. I am eager to lead my fellow Democratic Members as the Committee embarks on what looks to be a very busy and, I hope, very productive Congress.

Chairman Miller, as you know from your many years of service on the T&I Committee, the Committee has historically stood for true bipartisan cooperation, with both sides realizing the importance of investing in our nation's roads, rail, aviation, waterways and other vital infrastructure. The overwhelming bipartisan support for the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress illustrates what we can achieve when we work together. In the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, I hope the Committee will build upon that success.

As Chairman Shuster noted, we have a full legislative agenda for the next two years. First and foremost, Congress must enact a long-term surface transportation bill and an FAA reauthorization bill. In addition, the Committee intends to act on Amtrak/passenger rail reauthorization, Coast Guard authorization, legislation to reform FEMA and pipeline safety legislation, not to mention moving forward with another WRDA bill.

For us to do our jobs for the American people, we request that you fund the T&I Committee at an appropriate level. The T&I request of \$8,360,900.00 per year for the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress represents only a 1.2 percent increase from our 2014 actual funding level. The only budget category that sees any measurable increase is the Committee's travel budget. The increase will allow us to conduct numerous listening sessions, roundtables, field hearings, and site visits outside of Washington DC. Getting the input of many stakeholders from around the country is vital as we tackle the list of multi-year authorization bills previously mentioned.

As in the past, the committee will continue to provide two-thirds of the personnel budget to the Majority, and one-third to the Minority. The non-personnel budget, like the travel budget, will continue to be shared fairly between Majority and Minority.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee on House Administration today. I am happy to answer any questions you might have of us.