

News

From _____

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 13, 1987

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6TH STREET BRIDGE, RALEIGH AIRPORT, AMTRAK 'CARDINAL'

INCLUDED IN HOUSE-PASSED BILL, RAHALL SAYS

Washington, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) said today that the Transportation Appropriations bill passed by the House today provides funding for Amtrak's "Cardinal" run through southern West Virginia, as well as language Rahall inserted giving priority consideration to the Huntington's Sixth Street Bridge and the application by Raleigh County Airport for construction funds.

The Sixth Street Bridge and the Raleigh County Airport projects are both subject to approval under the discretion of the Secretary of Transportation. Rahall's language, approved by the House today, assigns priority consideration to these two very vital projects. "The bridge is in serious need of replacement, and it is vital to the transportation needs of the people in the area and to interstate commerce in the economically depressed Tri-State region," Rahall pointed out to his colleagues. "I fear a further loss of jobs and commerce in an area that has been struggling desperately to maintain its economic health."

Rahall also noted the need for additional construction at the Raleigh County Airport. "One of the most promising areas of development is our tourism industry and I view the Raleigh County Airport as a critical component in the further expansion and promotion of tourism in West Virginia," he said.

The House action also provides \$614 million to operate Amtrak. "To those of us in southern West Virginia, this means the 'Cardinal' run through the New River Gorge and southern West Virginia," Rahall observed. "Too many people in our part of the state have been deprived of adequate transportation throughout the area and have had to depend on Amtrak for their transportation needs. We are fortunate that the rail line will continue to serve our people and needs."

Also included in the bill is funding for mass transit which will ensure the service of the Tri-State Transit Authority in Huntington. "TTA provides accessible, reliable and professional bus service to the people of Huntington," Rahall stated. "And, just like Amtrak, TTA provides the sole source of mass transit to the people of the Tri-State area -- a much-needed and vital service."

The appropriations measure will now go to the Senate for consideration.

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