

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 16, 1987

CONTACT: Jerry Burkot
202-225-3452

RAHALL INCLUDES SIXTH STREET BRIDGE INSTRUCTIONS IN APPROPRIATIONS MEASURE

Washington, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall was successful in persuading the House Appropriations Transportation subcommittee to include language giving additional priority to Huntington's Sixth Street Bridge in the FY88 appropriations bill being considered in the committee.

Rahall's action means that the appropriations bill reported to the House for consideration will include language directing the Secretary of Transportation to assign high priority in the use of discretionary bridge funds to the Sixth Street Bridge. "This is a very significant step toward the final realization of our goal to replace the dilapidated Sixth Street Bridge," Rahall said. "Whereas all previous assurances I had received in the assignment of priority were in the form of colloquies and oral commitments on the floor of the House, this one will be included in the report language on the appropriations bill."

"Obviously, instructions such as these which appear in writing will carry great weight in the decision-making process of the Secretary of Transportation as to the assignment of discretionary bridge funds," Rahall added.

In a meeting last week with Federal Highway Administration head Ray Barnhart, Rahall and city officials were assured that prospects for the Sixth Street Bridge replacement were excellent -- provided the state proceeded on schedule and submitted the necessary right-of-way and construction plans. "It is incumbent upon the state to submit the necessary plans and applications so that the Department of Transportation can consider Huntington's application and approve the funds," Rahall implored.

During the meeting with Barnhart, both the administrator and Rahall cited the strong local support as a major factor in the chances for replacement of the bridge. Many city officials, including Mayor Robert Nelson and local legislators, as well as Chamber of Commerce representatives and local transportation officials, made their strong support known during the meeting.

"All of these steps I have taken, I feel, will help us toward final approval of this project," Rahall observed. "Replacement of the Sixth Street Bridge is vital to the city of Huntington, and I will pursue any and all avenues to bring about its replacement."

The Sixth Street Bridge has the lowest safety rating of any bridge in the state and has met all federal criteria for discretionary funding.

NICK J. RAHALL II
4TH DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

COMMITTEES:
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
CHAIRMAN:
MINING AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION

SUBCOMMITTEES:
AVIATION
WATER RESOURCES
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

6th Street

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 10, 1987

343 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3452

DISTRICT OFFICES:
815 FIFTH AVENUE
HUNTINGTON, WV 25701
(304) 522-NICK

110½ MAIN STREET
BECKLEY, WV 25801
(304) 252-5000

1005 FEDERAL BUILDING
BLUEFIELD, WV 24701
(304) 325-6222

R K BUILDING
LOGAN, WV 25601
(304) 752-4934

*\$25-\$30 mil
mtg w/ Barnhart 6-9-87*

Honorable William Lehman
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation
2347 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is to follow-up our conversation on the floor earlier today during which we discussed including the Huntington Sixth Street Bridge in report language accompanying the FY88 transportation appropriations bill.

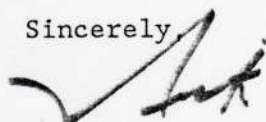
Specifically, I inquired as to whether you would be willing to direct the Secretary of Transportation to assign high priority in the use of discretionary bridge funds to the Sixth Street Bridge in the report language. You indicated at that time that you would be willing to do so, much to my appreciation.

The Sixth Street Bridge has a rating factor of 3.83 and has met all federal criteria for discretionary funding. The State of West Virginia will be applying for discretionary funding in both FY88 and FY89. The replacement of this bridge has been a long time coming and is strongly supported by all local parties.

I would like to express my deep appreciation for your willingness to include this provision in the report language, especially at this late date. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions in regard to this matter. Again, thanks very much.

With warmest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,



NICK J. RAHALL, II
Member of Congress

To: Congressman, Marge, Jerry
From: Kent
Re: 6th Street Bridge

Rick Houvouras called this morning to thank you for your efforts, invitation, and hospitality to him yesterday. He phoned Dan Martin, Herald-Dispatch, this a.m. and expressed his belief that the H-D should support your efforts along with those of Nelson, and Michelle Craig, KYOVA, thus putting the onus on the State.

Martin asked him if he could use his comments and quote him, Rick's response was that an editorial would be more helpful.

Martin explained to Rick, that the H-D is doing a feature on why Williamstown was expedited ahead of Huntington's bridge. Rick explained we might want to contact H-D on the story, or they may be calling us on it.

Thought you might want to know this, so we can be prepared to respond or pursue the story.

(called JB on this 6-10-87)

NJR - Should we wait for them to call or do you want me to call Dan & touch base w/ him, sort of a post-mortem on meeting & our action in subcommittee in getting language for 6th St bridge in Transp. Approp. bill. Please advise.

Jerry

let them talk to you maybe?!