

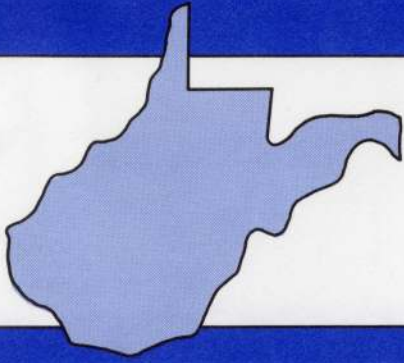
KENT - File

This release for Hinton,
Beckley, and Bluefield.

NR does not want
to do a release on
I-66.

JZ

Stown in
Mercer, Raleigh, Summers
Fayette
done
gm
1724



U.S. Congressman

Nick Rahall

WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 26, 1993

CONTACT: KENT KEYSER
(202) 225-3452

**RAHALL SEEKS TO PROMPT ACTION ON
PROPOSED NEW RIVER PARKWAY**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Legislation aimed at facilitating the construction of the proposed New River Parkway is treading its way through the House of Representatives, U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) announced today.

From its conception the parkway was envisioned as running along the West side of the New River between I-66 and a point across from Hinton. However, as a result of a requirement that alternative routes must be considered as part of the Environmental Impact Statement being devised for the project, Rahall is concerned that further project delays will ensue.

For this reason, Rahall's legislation stipulates that the parkway is to be constructed on the West side of the river.

"This project has already suffered a number of delays stemming largely from circumstances unrelated to its necessity or feasibility," Rahall noted. "With this legislation, I am seeking to facilitate the completion of the required assessments on the project so that it may move in an expeditious manner to the construction phase."

In his capacity as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Rahall is moving the legislation through the House as part of H.R. 3276, the "Intermodal Surface Transportation Corrections Act."

Rahall's Subcommittee approved the measure last week. Today, it was favorably acted on by the full Committee on Public Works and Transportation and is expected to receive consideration by the full House in the near future.

In 1987, Rahall was responsible for earmarking Federal funds for the then estimated \$17.6 million cost of constructing the parkway. Since that time, the estimated cost of construction has increased to over \$30 million.

Rahall said he would be amenable to seeking another earmark of Federal funds for the project only if the State demonstrates that it will not suffer further and undue delays.

- 30 -