



U.S. Congressman

Nick Rahall*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 13, 1993CONTACT: JIM ZOIA
(202) 225-9989**ROUTE 52 REPLACEMENT PROJECT GETS
2ND FEDERAL BOOST WITHIN A WEEK'S TIME***Rahall Says Federal Discretionary Funds Given To Projects*

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Following close on the heels of last week's announcement of the proposed new National Highway System, U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) today announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation is releasing \$370,000 in Federal discretionary funds to expedite feasibility and design studies for the proposed I-73 and Shawnee Parkway projects.

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Federico Pena personally called Rahall to advise him of the news. Rahall serves as the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Surface Transportation.

"This Federal discretionary money will be used to further the feasibility and design studies currently underway on these vital highway projects for southern West Virginia," Rahall said.

The Federal discretionary money augments funds that Rahall had earmarked in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) for the projects.

According to Rahall and Secretary Pena, the funding will be used to advance: (1) the 'common ground' segment of the I-73\Shawnee Parkway aimed at replacing U.S. Route 52 between Williamson and the three county juncture of Wyoming-McDowell-Mercer County near Crumpler; (2) the Shawnee Parkway segment from the three county juncture to I-77 in the vicinity of Flat Top; and (3) the I-73 segment from the three-county juncture to I-77 in the Bluefield vicinity, also aimed at replacing U.S. Route 52.

In October, Rahall had urged the West Virginia Department of Transportation to apply for the Federal discretionary funds.

"Getting these discretionary funds is a big boost for these projects. The State can further advance the necessary feasibility and design studies with this additional money and can use more of the money that I earmarked in ISTEA for these roads for activities leading to construction," Rahall noted.

Rahall was also advised that the U.S. Department of Transportation is granting West Virginia \$240,000 to construct a timber bridge over Brush Creek in Mercer County. The site for the bridge is located on Route 3, West of Speedway.

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