



U.S. Congressman  
**Nick Rahall**  
*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RAHALL LOOKS TO HIGHWAY TRUST FUND TO COMPLETE CORRIDOR SYSTEM**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) announced that he has introduced a bill which authorizes \$2.36 billion to be appropriated to the Secretary of Transportation from the Highway Trust Fund to be used to complete the Appalachian Highway system that has been in the making for 25 years.

Under the current system, it will take until the year 2065 to complete the system given current funding levels. Rep. Rahall has already introduced legislation that would have sped up that time frame.

"We cannot accept that it will take 75 years to complete our highway system," said Rahall. "The Highway Trust Fund has some \$19 billion in funds and I think we all can agree that the Appalachian Highway system should be at the top of their funding list, that we should receive the \$2.3 billion we need."

Rahall pointed out that his bill is the same as the one Senators Byrd and Rockefeller introduced in the other body.

"We want to see West Virginia receive the \$462 million it needs to finish her roads," said Rahall. "Especially with the West Virginia tourism trade taking off the way it is, we need to provide people with the access they need to visit West Virginia."

Rahall expects the bill to receive substantial support in both the House and Senate.

"There are parents in Appalachia who want to raise their children to be well educated and strong, and they want those children to stay and work at home -- not in some other state," said Rahall. "For every mile of road you envision along the Appalachian Highway system, envision as well the porch-lit homes of people who live there. That is what this funding means to West Virginia."

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