



U.S. Congressman

**Nick Rahall***WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****JULY 12, 1990****CONTACT: STEVE SPINA****PHONE: (202) 225-3452****TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS BILL PASSES THE HOUSE**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) announced today that the House of Representatives passed the Fiscal Year 1991 Transportation and Related Agencies appropriations bill by a vote of 385-31.

"The Transportation Appropriations Bill is without a doubt the most important appropriations bill in terms of impact on southern West Virginia," said Rahall.

The bill provides major increases over current funding levels for transportation programs, including Federal Aviation's airport improvement grants (26%), funding for the modernization of the air traffic control system (24%), and highway grants from the Federal Highway Administration (19%).

Rahall noted that the Federal Railroad Administration will be funded at \$736.5 million, of which \$482 million will continue Amtrak passenger rail service, with \$150 million earmarked for payments on behalf of Amtrak.

"I am especially pleased with the Amtrak funding," said Rahall. "I had talked with Amtrak officials in March and they had informed me that they needed \$105 million in federal funds to levy another \$275 million in private financing to purchase the necessary equipment. That would allow Amtrak to reach all of their potential market. This funding puts Amtrak within reach of their goal, and it is my hope that this will lead to full service for West Virginia's Cardinal."

Also included in the vast transportation bill was \$2 billion in funding for Urban Mass Transportation for use in the formula grant program in the coming year. This program provides mass transportation capital and operating assistance to both urban and non-urban areas, including the Tri-State Transit Authority in Huntington.

Rahall added that funding for the Essential Air Service (EAS) Program was also included. EAS, originally a ten year program established in 1978, is funded at \$24 million in the coming year. Five communities in West Virginia, including one in Beckley and Bluefield, have received monies.

\$6.4 billion was also granted for FAA programs and more importantly the bill authorizes the release of \$1.8 billion from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund for airport planning and development grants. This total is \$1 billion more (14%) than last year's level.

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Rahall also mentioned that \$293 million had been appropriated for the Federal Highway Administration. The measure calls for the release of \$14.5 billion from the Highway Trust Fund to assist in the construction and repair of the Interstate Highway System and secondary roads and bridges. The amount is \$2.3 billion more than last year's level.

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