



U.S. Congressman

**Nick Rahall***WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****SEPTEMBER 7, 1990****CONTACT: STEVE SPINA****PHONE: (202) 225-3452****RAHALL COMMENDS GOVERNOR ON ROUTE 2 SELECTION  
--CALLS ECONOMIC TRIAD A BOON FOR WEST VIRGINIA--**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Praising the Department of Highways (DOH) decision as visionary, U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today supported the State's intention to upgrade the highway from Point Pleasant to Huntington along Route 2 and upgrading Route 35 to Charleston. Rahall, referring to the new proposal as an economic triad, said that DOH estimated the cost of the project to be \$530 million. DOH added that if funding for both could not be accomplished then the Route 2 proposal to Milton would be adopted.

"This is without a doubt the most logical and beneficial road proposal that the Department could have taken. This is nothing short of visionary," said Rahall. "The triad of Point Pleasant, Huntington, and Charleston will reap benefits well into the next century, as well as the economically ripe Ohio valley located in between."

Rahall commended officials for seeing the obvious economic impact that upgrading Route 2 would bring to not only southern West Virginia but the whole State. He reiterated the economic impact that this road will have on the Ohio Valley which is just beginning to show its potential for economic growth.

"The Route 35 proposal to Charleston would impact West Virginia in the sense that it would speed traffic through the State," said Rahall. "The Route 2 alternative offers enormous economic growth potential. Potential that will carry us well into the next century. By choosing both, the Governor has developed a sound road strategy for the 1990's."

"What we are going to have here is a triad of infrastructure needs solved at once," said Rahall. "The economic boom that will result in the triangular shaped portion of land between Route 35 and Route 2 will be considerable indeed."

"I urge the Governor to endorse this plan at the public hearing in Huntington on September 13th," said Rahall.

Rahall will be traveling with the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Subcommittee, U.S. Rep. Norman Mineta (D-CA), through southern West Virginia on September 22nd to look at the major road projects for the area.

"I can guarantee you that the Triad Proposal will be one of the areas we will take a look at."

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