



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT: STEVE SPINA**

**PHONE: (202) 225-3452**

**RAHALL AND MINETA: REDEFINING WEST VIRGINIA'S HIGHWAY NEEDS**

The following are remarks made by U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) during his tour of roads in southern West Virginia with the Chairman of the surface Transportation Subcommittee, Norman Mineta (D-CA):

Our purpose today is the task of redefining West Virginia's road needs into the next decade. The Highway Reauthorization Bill will be before the House in January, and laid upon our table will be hundreds of road proposals from all over the nation, each one special to that particular region.

We in West Virginia have those same dreams. We want our road proposals to be given equal weight (actually, better than equal weight) when it comes down to reauthorizing the more than \$11 billion in funds held in the Highway Trust Fund.

That is why I have invited the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Subcommittee, the man who is going to build those roads, Congressman Norman Mineta with me on this tour of roads in southern West Virginia. I wanted him to meet the various groups, to see the various proposals, and hear all of the various arguments. Your comments today will be made part of the hearing record.

I want to thank all of you for turning out today and for making your voices heard. And I want you to be confident that when Chairman Mineta sits down with those of us who are members of the Surface Transportation Subcommittee, and when we all assemble with the Public Works and Transportation Committee, that southern West Virginia's voice will be heard.

I want to thank Chairman Mineta for taking his time and spending the day with us to hear our proposals. He is a busy man, and his being here today can attest to his dedication to the important position he holds.