

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 7, 1991

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DELEGATION MEETS WITH WEST VIRGINIA HIGHWAY OFFICIALS

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- West Virginia's congressional delegation today met with Secretary of Transportation Arch Gleason and Commissioner of the Division of Highways Fred Van Kirk to discuss the progress of West Virginia's efforts to effectively position itself for the upcoming Highway Reauthorization Bill.

The meeting served the dual purpose of letting the State highway officials know the congressional delegation's priorities, and to inform the Members as to the status of West Virginia's projects for the Highway Reauthorization Bill.

"Mr. Van Kirk and Mr. Gleason have demonstrated that they are ahead of the ball game in preparing the information we will need to craft the highway bill," said Rahall. "I was pleased to find that the preliminary cost estimates for a new East-West Highway (TOLSA and Route 52/ Shawnee), the Coalfields Expressway and the Point Pleasant to Huntington and Charleston proposals will be done in time for reauthorization, and I was also encouraged by the State's level of enthusiasm and support for the Energy Impacted Roads Program," said U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-4th).

Rahall, the dean of the West Virginia delegation, included the Energy Impacted Roads Amendment to the 1982 federal highway bill which called for a 85-15 split in matching share funds on energy impacted roads.

U.S. Rep. Bob Wise (D-3rd) remarked, "It was important that the West Virginia Department of Transportation and congressional delegation have agreed on highway funding priorities for the year. I am encouraged because the Highway Reauthorization Bill, which the Congress will work on this year, will likely permit the construction of important highway projects in our state -- including construction of both roads to Point Pleasant from Charleston and Huntington, as recommended recently by the state Department of Transportation."

West Virginia Second District Congressman Harley Staggers said the meeting provided an overview of the job ahead for the West Virginia delegation in the Congress.

"Clearly, the congressional delegation has its work cut out for it, as we work to secure the funding necessary to help build roads in West Virginia," said Staggers. "We go about our work knowing that each mile built or upgraded means new jobs for our communities."

Congressman Alan Mollohan, from West Virginia's First District, added, "I certainly appreciated Secretary Gleason and Commissioner Van Kirk's traveling to Washington, D.C., at such an important time in the history of the nation's interstate highway system. This week's meetings allowed us to discuss West Virginia's needs prior to the reauthorization of federal highway, bridge and mass transit programs."

To: Steve Spina
From: Rod Blackstone
Date: Feb. 7, 1991
Re: Highway meeting statement

Steve,

Here is a quick quote from Bob for your release. I hope it helps. If possible I would like to see a final copy of the release when it's ready to go. My fax number is 5-7856. Thanks for thinking of us.

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