



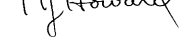
**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Memorandum

Subject: INFORMATION: Notification of Review of
Discretionary Funds Used for Congressionally
Designated Projects
Project Number: 01I3003I000

Date: February 20, 2001

From: Thomas J. Howard 
Acting Deputy Assistant Inspector General
for National Transportation Infrastructure Activities

Reply to
Attn of: JA-30

To: Federal Highway Administrator
Federal Transit Administrator
Federal Aviation Administrator

The Office of Inspector General is initiating a review of discretionary funds that have been designated or earmarked for special interest projects. The Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation requested this review. The review will focus on funds allocated to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The objectives of our review are to determine the (1) dollar amount of "special interest" projects that were earmarked; (2) projects that were earmarked by law compared to those earmarked in committee reports; (3) criteria used to decide which projects were funded; (4) status, including cost estimates, obligations, and expenditures of the projects; and (5) to identify any project grants, announced before the 2000 election, that have been subsequently rescinded or redirected to other projects.

We will conduct our review at FHWA, FTA, and FAA Headquarters, Division, and/or Regional Offices and State Highway Departments. We will contact your audit liaisons to schedule an entrance conference.

If I can answer any questions or be of further assistance, please contact me at (202) 366-5630, or Gary Lewis, Program Director, at (817) 978-3318.

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cc: Cynthia Thornton, HAIM-11
Ann Branch, TAD-10
Ronald Page, APF-200