

Secured Projects by Congressman Bill Shuster in FY 2008 Appropriations Bills

Every year, Congress drafts a budget that outlines how much will be spent to fund the Department of Defense, the Department of Health and Human Services and other important federal agencies. Once this outline is set, it is up to Congress to then set specific funding levels within those agencies through the appropriations process.

As a fiscal conservative, I believe that government spends too much and is far too free with the hard earned dollars our taxpayers must pay every April to keep their government open and operating. I am dedicated to reducing the size of the budgetary “pie” that is carved up and spent and I oppose programs and projects that embody waste, inefficiency and quintessential “red tape.”

However, one of my most important responsibilities as your representative in Congress is to ensure the 9th district gets the money it needs from the federal government to fund important projects to improve our infrastructure, boost economic investment, create jobs and offer a better standard of living the residents of central and western Pennsylvania. One of the most direct ways I can accomplish this is through Member directed spending, commonly called “earmarks.” It is important to note that earmarks make up less than one percent of the federal budget.












I believe that taxpayer money is best spent by subjecting programs to public debate and open scrutiny by Congress. Allowing Members of Congress to fight for their constituents’ interests and echo their concerns to the committee chairmen who control the government’s purse strings is an important aspect of our representative form of government. The alternative of empowering nameless, faceless government bureaucrats in Washington to spend your money when they haven’t been to the 9th district let alone understand its needs is the opposite of accountability and encourages fraud and abuse.

That being said, Congress must be responsible and transparent with its spending practices. Disclosure is important and projects must stand up to public scrutiny. For that reason, I have attached a spreadsheet of projects that up to this point I have secured in the committees of the House that handle the appropriations process.

It is important to note that these projects have not gone through all of the steps necessary to make them law. Instead, these requests have only been secured by the committees that have jurisdiction over their respective federal agencies. In other words, just because a project appears on this list, it is not a clear sign of success. Success is only certain when the legislation is signed into law by the President.

Currently, the spending bills in the House of Representatives must be reconciled with the bills passed by the Senate, and then signed into law by the President before they become law and any funding is released. Many changes occur in these bills each year before they become law, and this list will be updated as the appropriations process goes forward.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Passed Committee</u>	<u>Passed by House</u>	<u>Signed into Law</u>
Flight 93 National Memorial	\$5 million	Funding for this project would be used to enable the National Park Service to acquire approximately 2,200 acres of private land within the authorized boundary of the Flight 93 National Memorial. This project will honor the lives and the memory of the brave men and women of Flight 93 who in the spirit of American determination launched the first counterattack of the Global War on Terror	✓	✓	
Army Corps of Engineers Construction	\$11 million	This project will allow the Army Corps of Engineers to assist local communities to install essential infrastructure improvements in the 9 th district, including basic sewer and water systems throughout rural South Central Pennsylvania.	✓	✓	
Juniata Ultra Low Emission Locomotive Demonstrator	\$600,000	Funding for this project would be used to match private sector capital already raised to accelerate and expand the growth of the Ultra Low Emission Locomotive concept and accelerate its testing under real life rail operations. This project would assist in funding the additional research and development needed to produce a locomotive that has a longer operational window and greater load capacity. Converting the existing locomotive fleet to this new technology would reduce both emissions and our dependence on foreign oil. The project also increases economic development at the Juniata Shops.	✓	✓	
Facilities Improvement for Fulton County Medical Center	\$250,000	Providing comprehensive healthcare continues to be a major challenge for rural America. Currently, the Fulton County Medical Center is the only hospital and long term facility serving the area's residents. This funding will be used to assist in the construction of a replacement hospital to provide additional space and greatly enhanced medical facilities.	✓	✓	
Military Heritage Center Foundation, Carlisle, PA	\$100,000	Funding for this project would be used to enhance educational opportunities at the Army Heritage Center in Cumberland County for college students majoring in history and education. Specifically, funding would allow students to work with the Heritage Center to create and develop educational materials for visitors.	✓	✓	

Rehabilitation of the Martin's Mill Covered Bridge	\$250,000	Our covered bridges are a lasting reminder of our heritage and history. The Martin's Mill Covered Bridge, located in Franklin County, is listed on the National Register of Historical Places and is a centerpiece to the rich history of the region. Funding from this project would rehabilitate this structure, protecting it for future generations.			
Martinsburg Borough Streetscape Project	\$100,000	Funding for this project would be used to make upgrades to the infrastructure of the business district of the Borough of Martinsburg in Blair County.			
Expansion of the Huntingdon County Community Center	\$100,000	Funding for this project would be used for the expansion of the facilities at the Huntingdon County Community Center, located in Huntingdon County. The Community Center, which is a crucial part of the community, provides the youth of Huntingdon County with both sporting and educational activities in a safe and nurturing environment and is in need of an expansion to meet growing demands from the community.			
Rehabilitation of the Conemaugh Township Community Center in Saltsburg, PA	\$50,000	Funding for this project would be used to help rehabilitate an aquatic recreational facility at the Conemaugh Township Community Center in Indiana County, Pennsylvania that services special needs children in the region. The facility was originally built in 1964 and with little enhancement since that time. Specifically, funding for this project would be used to make critical upgrades to the recreational facility so that it may better serve its clientele and meet ADA requirements for special needs students.			
Meyersdale Community Center Roof Improvement	\$50,000	Funding for this project would be used to make improvements to the Meyersdale Community Center in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Specifically, funding would be used for the construction of a new roof. The Meyersdale Community Center, which provides numerous after school programs for the students of the area, is facing significant safety concerns due to the current dilapidated status of the roof.			
Operation Our Town	\$250,000	Operation Our Town is a non-profit group focused on coordinating resources in Blair County, Pennsylvania to reduce the threats faced by drugs and related crimes. The			

		City of Altoona has experienced a substantial increase in drug related incidents in recent years. Funding for this project would be used by Operation Our Town to facilitate partnerships between community and business leaders to fight drug use and crime through proven law enforcement, treatment, and prevention strategies.			
Equipment Upgrades for first Responders in Cambria County	\$125,000	Funding for this project would be used to upgrade and purchase equipment of first responders in northern Cambria County, Pennsylvania.	✓	✓	