

The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will begin working on the upcoming Surface Transportation Reauthorization. This process takes place every five to seven years, and authorizes transportation spending for highways and transit programs.

A portion of this authorization will give members of Congress the ability to suggest “High Priority Projects” that will benefit residents of their respective districts. My staff and I consulted with the county managers of all 15 counties in our congressional district, as well as our regional and metropolitan planning offices and the North Carolina Department of Transportation to identify certain projects that would be eligible for consideration by the Committee.

The list of project requests that I submitted to the Committee on May 14, 2009 are below. While I am hopeful that several of these projects will be included in the authorization, the selection process will not be complete until the final passage of the authorizing bill.

City of Asheville, Automatic Vehicle Locator. \$416,000.00

AVL is a device that makes use of the Global Positioning System (GPS) to enable Asheville Transit to remotely track the location of its vehicle fleet by using the Internet. These devices combine GPS technology, cellular communications, street-level mapping, and an intuitive user interface, with the ostensible goal of improving fleet management and customer service.

Buncombe County, I-40 Liberty Road Interchange. \$20,800,000.00

Convert grade separation to an interchange and construct two lane roadway, US 19-23-NC 151 to SR 1224 with part on new location.

City of Asheville, Mission Hospital Victoria Road. \$9,600,000.00

Realign and widen Victoria Road connecting the Mission Campus/St. Joseph Campus of the hospital.

Graham County, Corridor K. \$55,550,000.00

Acquire right of way for and conduct mitigation and construction of Corridor K of the Appalachian Development Highway System from NC 143 to US 129.

Graham County, NC 143. \$14,400,000.00

Upgrade corridor from West Buffalo Creek to NC 143 Business.

Waynesville, NC 209. \$8,207,200.00

Improvements to NC 209 between Old Clyde Road and US 23/74. The eastern entrance from US 74 into Waynesville will be improved by widening to a multi-lane facility, solving several congestion problems in the area.

Haywood County, Howell Mill Road Improvements. \$12,640,000.00

SR 1184 (Howell Mill Road), US 276 to US 23 Business. Upgrade two lanes and construct railroad grade separation.

City of Hendersonville, Fifth Avenue Streetscape. \$1,000,000.00

Upgrade and expand the sidewalk which will entail the relocation of the utilities.

City of Hendersonville, Fourth Avenue Streetscape. \$1,200,000.00

Reconstruction and installation of a pedestrian walkway and the implementation of upgraded crosswalks and lighting.

Jackson County, NC 107. \$26,160,000.00

Upgrade existing roadway.

Rutherford and Polk Counties, 74-26 Realignment. \$16,496,000.00

Currently traffic heading westbound on US-74 must merge and mix with local traffic on NC-108 to head eastbound on I-26. Both US-74 and I-26 are roads vital to commerce in the area. This causes congestion and safety concerns for residents competing with tractor trailers on such a narrow road.

Statewide Bus System Upgrades. \$21,868,590.00

Purchasing replacement and expansion buses is necessary because if a vehicle is not replaced when it meets service life, operating costs will increase with the age of the vehicle. Asheville is one of the metropolitan areas that would participate in these upgrades.

Transylvania County, US 64 Upgrades. \$320,000.00

Acquire a right of way for a realignment of US Highway 64 in western Transylvania County.

Buncombe County, I-26 Connector. \$392,240,000.00

New route into the City of Asheville, North Carolina.

Western North Carolina. Geotextile Separators. \$1,150,000.00

Research and Demonstration Project Quantifying Life Cycle Cost-benefits of Pavements Incorporating Geotextile Separators.