



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

DAVID R. OBEY, CHAIRMAN

Contact: Ellis Brachman, Full Committee, 202-225-2771
Sara Merriam, Chairman Olver, 202-225-5335

SUMMARY: 2010 TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP

Recognizing that Americans spend an average of 52 percent of their income on housing and transportation, the FY2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill addresses the important challenges of keeping our transportation system safe and strong, ensuring that every American has adequate shelter, and doing so in a way that strengthens the economy and is environmentally responsible.

A transportation system that moves people and goods safely and efficiently is essential in a global economy, therefore the bill provides critical resources to maintain and improve our nation's airports, highways, passenger rail and transit systems.

To ensure that low-income Americans have a place to call home during the tough economy and the mortgage crisis, the bill invests in programs for vulnerable populations, including Section 8 Rental Assistance, Housing for Persons with AIDS, and Housing for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities. The bill also encourages and funds investments in sustainability through capital funding for public housing.

To help revitalize communities in these difficult times, the bill funds the President's request for the Rural Innovation Fund, and increases investments in programs like CDBG and Brownfields Redevelopment.

Bill Total

2009 Enacted: \$54.99 billion

President's Request: \$108.32 billion*

Chairman's Mark: \$68.82 billion

*The President's request included \$39,450,171 in general fund appropriations for programs traditionally funded through obligation limitations on mandatory contract authority.

Overall, the 2010 bill provides \$123.1 billion in base budgetary resources for programs funded in this bill, which is \$53 million below the President's request and \$14.3 billion (or 13 percent) above the 2009 level, excluding the Recovery Act funding.

KEY INVESTMENTS

INVESTING IN NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Federal Transit Administration: \$10.48 billion, \$148 million above the request and \$352 million above 2009 including:

- **New Construction:** \$1.83 billion, equal to the President's Request and \$18.1 million above 2009, for Capital Investment Grants for commuter rail or other light rail systems to increase public use of mass transit, alleviate traffic congestion, reduce gas consumption, and save commuters time and money.

- **Transit Formula Grants:** \$8.34 billion, equal to the President's Request and \$182.6 million above 2009, for Formula and Bus Grants for on-going capital and operating needs of urban and rural transit systems, including funding for new buses, stations, intermodal facilities, and technology improvements.
- **Capital and Preventive Maintenance Grants for WMATA:** \$150 million in new funding for grants to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority to address safety deficiencies and to maintain the nation's subway system.

Amtrak: \$1.5 billion, matching the request and \$10 million below 2009, to support the national passenger rail system.

High Speed/Intercity Passenger Rail Grants: \$4 billion, \$3 billion above the request and \$4 billion above 2009, to provide grants to states or Amtrak for high speed/intercity passenger rail to create a 21st Century passenger rail system that reduces congestion and environmental impacts. The Secretary may use or transfer \$2 billion to a National Infrastructure Bank if one is authorized by the end of the fiscal year.

Highway Infrastructure: \$41.1 billion, the same as the request and \$407 million above 2009, to improve and repair our nation's aging highway infrastructure.

Airport Modernization, Safety and Efficiency Grants: \$3.5 billion, matching the request and \$500,000 above 2009, to ease congestion and prepare our nation's airports for growing use.

Modernizing Air Traffic Control: \$2.9 billion, equal to the request and \$183 million above 2009, including \$785 million to modernize the Federal Aviation Administration's air traffic control system.

PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN TOUGH TIMES

Public Housing Capital Fund: \$2.5 billion, \$256 million above the request and \$50 million above 2009, for Public Housing Authorities to make critical repairs and improvements to public housing units and improve living conditions for residents.

Public Housing Operating Fund: \$4.8 billion, \$200 million above the request and \$345 million above 2009, for maintenance, crime prevention and energy costs. HUD and the PHAs have determined \$5.3 billion is needed in 2010.

Section 8 Tenant Based Vouchers: \$18.2 billion, \$406 million above the request and \$1.2 billion above 2009, to support 2.1 million vouchers to individuals and families.

Veterans Affairs Housing Vouchers: \$75 million, matching 2009 and \$75 million above the request, to provide 10,000 housing vouchers for homeless veterans.

Section 8 Project Based Vouchers: \$8.7 billion, \$600 million above the request and \$1.6 billion above 2009, to provide affordable housing to 1.3 million low-income families and individuals, two-thirds of whom are elderly or disabled.

Housing for the Elderly: \$1 billion, \$235 million above the President's request and the level provided in fiscal year 2009, to rehabilitate and build housing for low-income elderly people. Ten eligible seniors are on the waiting list for every one unit of housing available.

Housing for the Disabled: \$350 million, \$100 million above the request and 2009, for grants to rehabilitate and build housing for disabled people.

Homeless Assistance Grants: \$1.85 billion, \$56 million above the request and \$173 million above 2009, for grants to local communities to provide housing and services for the homeless. This increase will help fund new competitive projects in communities with capacity and demonstrated need for this housing.

Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation: \$196.8 million, \$30 million above the request and \$15.8 million above 2009, to provide counseling for families in danger of losing their homes to foreclosure.

Housing for Persons with AIDS: \$350 million, \$40 million above the request and 2009, to help address homelessness within this vulnerable population.

Housing Counseling Assistance: \$70 million, \$30 million below the request and \$5 million above 2009, to continue pre-purchase counseling for prospective homebuyers.

REVITALIZING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Community Development Block Grants: \$4.6 billion, \$174 million above the request and \$725 million above 2009, to fund community and economic development projects in 1,180 localities.

Brownfields Redevelopment: \$25 million, \$15 million above 2009 and \$25 million above the request, to remove blight and spur economic development on formerly vacant commercial and industrial sites.

HOPE VI: \$250 million, \$130 million above 2009, to fund competitive grants to transform neighborhoods of extreme poverty into sustainable mixed-income neighborhoods through the demolition of severely distressed public housing.

RURAL COMMUNITIES

Essential Air Service: \$175 million, matching the request and \$38.8 million above 2009, to continue essential air service to small and/or rural communities. The Administration has committed to working with Congress to develop a more sustainable program.

Rural Transit Formula Grants: \$607 million, \$69 million above 2009, to support public transportation in rural communities.

Rural Innovation Fund: \$25 million, matching the request, for a new initiative that will encourage innovative practices in rural communities to further economic development.

Native American Housing Block Grants: \$750 million, \$105 million above the request and 2009, to rehabilitate and construct housing on Native American lands.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

Aviation Safety Programs: \$1.2 billion, \$15.4 million above the request and \$67.2 million above 2009, including \$9.5 million to hire additional flight standard inspectors and \$4.5 million to hire additional aircraft certification inspection staff.

Highway Safety Programs: \$867 million for the programs of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the same as the request and \$11.2 million above 2009, to make America's roads safer by encouraging safety belt use, preventing drinking and driving, improving child safety, motorcyclist safety, and other initiatives.

Pipeline Safety: \$105.2 million, matching the request and \$12 million above 2009, for the state pipeline safety grant program. This increase will allow a 70/30 federal/local match for pipeline safety grants, which is a five percent increase in the federal match over fiscal year 2009.

Federal Railroad Safety Research: \$64 million, \$30 million above the request, and \$30.2 million above 2009, for passenger and freight railroad research and development. The increase will enable FRA to conduct research into high speed rail and advanced diesel locomotive design.

National Transportation Safety Board Investigators: \$99.2 million, \$3.8 million above the request and \$8.2 million above 2009, to provide additional investigators to respond to and investigate transportation crashes.

SIGNIFICANT CUTS

Choice Neighborhoods: No funding for this new initiative, requested by the President at \$250 million. This program is unauthorized, and duplicative of activities in the HOPE VI program.

Energy Innovation Fund: The President requested \$100 million for this fund and the bill provides \$50 million. Some activities of this new initiative are duplicative of other Federal programs, particularly at the Department of Energy.

National Infrastructure Bank: No funding directly provided, however, bill language is included to allow the Secretary to use or transfer up to \$2 billion to the Bank if authorized by the end of the fiscal year.

IMPORTANT POLICY ITEMS

Sustainable Communities Initiative: The bill includes \$150 million within the Community Development Block Grants program, as requested in the President's budget, for a new sustainable communities initiative to provide grants to assist local communities with integrated housing, transportation and energy planning efforts.

Loan limits for FHA and GSEs: The bill extends the loan limits enacted in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the end of the 2010 fiscal year.

Reverse Mortgages: The bill provides for the continuation of the Home Equity Conversion Mortgage program, which provides an important option for seniors to remain in their homes.

Flight 93 National Memorial: \$4 million to improve road access to the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.