

title 23, United States Code; except that such funds shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM.

Section 7(a)(1) of the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004, Part V (118 Stat. 1153; 119 Stat. 330) is amended—

(1) by striking “\$213,799,290” and inserting “\$224,383,414”; and

(2) by striking “July 30” and inserting “August 14”.

SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR FEDERAL TRANSIT PROGRAMS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 5338(f)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the heading by striking “JULY 30” and inserting “AUGUST 14”;

(2) in subparagraph (A)(vii)—

(A) by striking “\$54,350,686” and inserting “\$57,650,686”; and

(B) by striking “July 30” and inserting “August 14”; and

(3) in subparagraph (B)(vii) by striking “July 30” and inserting “August 14”.

(b) OBLIGATION CEILING.—Section 3040(7) of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (112 Stat. 394; 118 Stat. 885; 118 Stat. 1158; 119 Stat. 333) is amended—

(1) by striking “\$6,398,695,996” and inserting “\$6,401,995,996”; and

(2) by striking “July 30” and inserting “August 14”.

SEC. 6. BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5001(a)(4) of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (112 Stat. 420; 118 Stat. 1150; 119 Stat. 327; 119 Stat. 346; 119 Stat. 379; 119 Stat. 394) is amended by striking “\$25,730,000 for the period of October 1, 2004, through July 30, 2005” and inserting “\$27,000,000 for the period of October 1, 2004, through August 14, 2005”.

(b) LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS.—Of the obligation limitation made available for Federal-aid highways and highway safety construction programs for fiscal year 2005 by division H of Public Law 108-447 (118 Stat. 3204) not more than \$1,270,000 shall be available, in addition to any obligation limitation previously provided, for administrative expenses of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics for the period of July 30, 2005, through August 14, 2005.

SEC. 7. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF TRUST FUNDS FOR OBLIGATIONS UNDER TEA-21.

(a) HIGHWAY TRUST FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 9503(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) in the matter before subparagraph (A), by striking “July 31, 2005” and inserting “August 15, 2005”;

(B) by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (O),

(C) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (P) and inserting “, or”;

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (P) the following new subparagraph:

“(Q) authorized to be paid out of the Highway Trust Fund under the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2005, Part VI.”, and

(E) in the matter after subparagraph (Q), as added by this paragraph, by striking “Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2005, Part V” and inserting “Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2005, Part VI”.

(2) MASS TRANSIT ACCOUNT.—Paragraph (3) of section 9503(e) of such Code is amended—

(A) in the matter before subparagraph (A), by striking “July 31, 2005” and inserting “August 15, 2005”;

(B) in subparagraph (M), by striking “or” at the end of such subparagraph,

(C) in subparagraph (N), by inserting “or” at the end of such subparagraph,

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (N) the following new subparagraph:

“(O) the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2005, Part VI.”, and

(E) in the matter after subparagraph (O), as added by this paragraph, by striking “Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2005, Part V” and inserting “Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2005, Part VI”.

(3) EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION ON TRANSFERS.—Subparagraph (B) of section 9503(b)(6) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following: “The preceding sentence shall be applied by substituting ‘August 15, 2005’ for the date therein.”.

(b) AQUATIC RESOURCES TRUST FUND.—

(1) SPORT FISH RESTORATION ACCOUNT.—Paragraph (2) of section 9504(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following: “Subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) shall each be applied by substituting ‘Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2005, Part VI’ for ‘Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2005, Part V’.”.

(2) BOAT SAFETY ACCOUNT.—Subsection (c) of section 9504 of such Code is amended—

(A) by striking “July 31, 2005” and inserting “August 15, 2005”; and

(B) by striking “Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2005, Part V” and inserting “Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2005, Part VI”.

(3) EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION ON TRANSFERS.—Paragraph (2) of section 9504(d) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “The preceding sentence shall be applied by substituting ‘August 15, 2005’ for the date therein.”.

(c) TEMPORARY RULE REGARDING ADJUSTMENTS.—During the period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2003 and ending on August 14, 2005, for purposes of making any estimate under section 9503(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of receipts of the Highway Trust Fund, the Secretary of the Treasury shall treat—

(1) each expiring provision of paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 9503(b) of such Code which is related to appropriations or transfers to such Fund to have been extended through the end of the 24-month period referred to in section 9503(d)(1)(B) of such Code, and

(2) with respect to each tax imposed under the sections referred to in section 9503(b)(1) of such Code, the rate of such tax during the 24-month period referred to in section 9503(d)(1)(B) of such Code to be the same as the rate of such tax as in effect on the date of the enactment of the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2003.

(d) SUBSEQUENT REPEAL OF CERTAIN TEMPORARY PROVISIONS.—Each of the following provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 are amended by striking the last sentence thereof:

(1) Section 9503(b)(6)(B).

(2) Section 9504(b)(2).

(3) Section 9504(d)(2).

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) SUBSEQUENT REPEAL.—The amendments made by subsection (d) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users and shall be executed immediately before the amendments made by such Act.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3, SAFE, ACCOUNTABLE, FLEXIBLE, EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A LEGACY FOR USERS

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 399, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 3) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 399, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of July 28, 2005, Book II.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is truly a great day for the users of our Nation’s transportation infrastructure. Today, I bring before you for consideration the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, which will for the future be known as SAFETEA-LU.

Mr. Speaker, the conference report is a result of a great deal of extremely hard work on the part of many people, including the leadership of the House and the Senate, our committee members, and all other committees of jurisdiction and our great staff.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3 provides a funding level of \$286.45 billion in guaranteed funding over 6 years for Federal highways and transit programs, as well as highway safety and motor carrier safety programs.

This legislation will strengthen this country’s ability to move people, and especially freight. The American people need to know that SAFETEA-LU increases funding for constructing and improving our Nation’s highways by 30 percent over TEA-21. This legislation improves transportation products delivery by ensuring better cooperation among State departments of transportation and Federal permitting agencies.

It improves the rate of return and scope for donor States and donee States, has a minimum growth of not less than 19 percent over TEA-21. It improves highway safety with a new program designed to increase safety belt use.

In the area of transit, we have created a new freedom initiative to give more mobility to the disabled and increase the transit funding over TEA-21 by 36 percent. We have dramatically improved the Federal motor carriers commercial driver’s license system, and funding is increased for motor carrier safety.

This bill results in safer roads, which are built faster and last longer. Most

significantly, H.R. 3 will put Americans to work by creating the kinds of jobs that support families and increase our tax base. This is much-needed legislation that will move our country toward a stronger economy.

Mr. Speaker, before I close, as usual, I want to take a moment to thank all of the Members of the House. I wanted to thank the staffs that worked so hard on this conference report with the other body. I especially want, and unfortunately he is not here and hopefully will get here, my ranking member, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), who has been unwavering in his support and working in cooperation with this chairman.

The chairman of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit and Pipelines, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI), who has been a driving force behind much of the policy of this bill, the gentleman has taken his subcommittee around the country to investigate the infrastructure needs of the United States as well as I.

Also the subcommittee ranking member, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), who is with us today, has made an enormous contribution of time and energy to this legislation.

I especially owe much thanks to the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS) of the Ways and Means Committee for his constant support and for his ability to make law.

I would like to recognize the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) from the Committee on the Budget, who has worked hard with me to accommodate the increase in authorization needs to produce this legislation. I want to thank the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), for helping us find solutions to some of the very difficult problems.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), the Speaker of the House, for the countless hours he spent working with us to keep this process moving. Without his support, we would not be here today prepared to pass this outstanding piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I especially want to thank one of the main staffers for the Speaker, Bill Hughes, who has been able to put pieces together when things were falling apart to make sure that we are able to do what we have to do, as well as Jack Victory with the majority leader's office. Without their support this would not happen.

And I personally want to thank the hard-working staff of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure who have been here many nights, sometimes as much as 36 hours in a row and weekends drafting this legislation.

This subcommittee staff who made this happen most of all are Graham Hill, Jim Tyman, Joyce Rose, Derek Miller, Suzanne Newhouse, Bailey Edwards, Will Bland, Debbie Gephart, Patrick Mullane from the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI's) staff.

In addition, my chief of staff, Lloyd Jones, chief counsel Liz Megginson, Chris Kennedy, Charles Ziegler, Mark

Zachares, Fraser Verusion, Debbie Callis, Andrew Forbes, Jason Rosa, and Phillip Maxwell.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR's) staff. This has been a bipartisan effort. They worked equally hard with my staff: Davis David Heymsfeld, chief counsel; Ward McCarragher; as well as Kathy Zern; Art Chan; Ken House; Eric Vanschyndle; Stephanie Manning; Kathie Dedrick of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO's) staff.

Last but not least, I want to express my appreciation for the legislative counsel who over and over had to write this bill. Also, last but not least, my appreciation goes to David Mendelsohn, Curt Haensel, and Rosemary Gallagher.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my wife for putting up with me for the last 3½ years making this bill. That has been the most difficult thing she has had to do.

Mr. Speaker, it is a good bill. It should be passed. Again, I want to thank this body for bringing this to fruition. It is a good piece of legislation for this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. At long last no more, well, one extension, only so we can properly celebrate the adoption of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to join with the gentleman from Alaska (Chairman YOUNG). I first want to thank the gentleman and other leaders on the Republican side for their extraordinary fairness in this process and recognizing that transportation, transportation efficiency is not a partisan issue; it serves all Americans. It serves all business in blue States, red States, Democratic, Republican, Independent.

We are here today gathered to make an extraordinary investment in the future of our country. I do not think there is anything this Congress could do more definitively to put people back to work, to stimulate our economy, to increase our efficiency, our competitiveness, both nationally and internationally than this legislation.

And the wonderful thing, at this time in our Nation's history, about this legislation is we are not borrowing the money to do it. We are spending taxes paid by all Americans at the gas pump: individuals, passenger car drivers, and commercial drivers and businesses.

And we are going to take that money, and we are going to invest it in ways that benefit this Nation for decades to come. We are going to help mitigate congestion, and congestion is at the top of my list, because the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) should have been here to join in this effort, but he is stuck in traffic. And hopefully by the time we finish spending the money in TEA-LU, the gentleman and other Americans will be able to get to work more readily in the future, in addition to benefiting business and other aspects of our country.

Mr. Speaker, particularly I want to thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) for his mentorship, his leadership on our side, his friendship, his advocacy, his knowledge, his history. I learned a lot during this bill. It was an extraordinary process for me. And he has been wonderful and helpful.

The gentleman also came to my State to recognize that my State has an extraordinary problem that transcends the boundaries of our State, something I started campaigning for a couple of years ago, to recognize that Interstate 5 is the lifeline of the western United States, joining the fifth largest economy in the world, California, to Oregon and Washington, two foreign nations, Mexico and Canada, serving the busiest port in the Nation, and a number of other very busy ports, the third busiest truck route in America.

Oregon has an extraordinary problem on Interstate 5, through an accident of history, having built our interstate before other States. Our bridges are virtually reaching simultaneous failure because we used an old 1950s and pre-1950s technology, where States who built the interstate later, California and others, used a very different technology, and they do not have the bridge problems we have.

My State has raised fees and licenses and bonded a tremendous amount of money to deal with this problem, but we are still short. And this bill will go a long way toward filling that gap and completing Interstate 5 so you will not have trucks detouring up over the Cascade Mountains, down the far side and back onto I-5.

But that is probably one of the many issues this bill will deal with. Other projects of national significance, something pioneered by the chairman of this committee and the House, which the Senate only tagged onto in the end, is going to make tremendous investments in the Alameda Corridor, other critical areas in California that are suffering from huge growth, and congestion all across the Nation.

We will be making very significant investments with major projects there, and then down the Missouri River Bridge all the way to the east coast and some of the problems dealing with freight movement across New York Harbor from New Jersey into New York. This is not everything we needed, but it is a tremendous and meaningful down payment.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank again all who joined in this effort. I want to join the chairman in thanking the Republican staff. He has done an able job of that. I would like to name a few folks on our side, and there have been a lot of sleepless nights.

First and foremost, my staff: Kathie Dedrick, who yesterday was her birthday, probably one she will never forget. She got all 24 hours out of it, because she did not sleep. So that is, I guess, one way to approach that.

I want to thank the Highway Subcommittee staff, Ken House, Art Chan, Stephanie Manning, Eric VanSchyndle, Jennifer Esposito, Jackie Schmitz, Homer Carlisle.

I particularly want to thank David Heysfeld, who brings almost as much history and knowledge to these issues as the ranking member and sometimes remembers some details that the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) has forgotten.

Ward McCarragher, Kathie Zern, Jen Walsh, Dara Schlieker, an administrative assistant without whom we never would have got through to people and coordinated things.

I want to thank some folks downtown, actually, at the Federal Highway Administration, Susan Binder, Rosi Crighton, because they spent an incredible amount of time analyzing what it was we were doing, because there are times when you start moving pieces around in this formula, we are not quite sure where it is all headed and who is going to be impacted.

Sometimes at 3 or 4 in the morning, they were doing analysis that was critical to the committee completing this bill in a fair way.

So I want to thank the chairman. I want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) and his staff. He has just been wonderful to me as chairman. I am proud to serve under him as ranking member.

□ 1030

I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) because he and I may disagree over a number of things, but we found common cause here in investing in the future of this country. And he played an absolutely critical role in negotiating with the Senate, which is one of the most confounding processes, I do not know if you can even call it a process, that I have ever dealt with. I do not know that it is that organized.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI).

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time. I would like to reciprocate and say I appreciate working with the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and his staff. It has been a pleasant experience at a time when people are deploring this body in some corridors for its partisanship.

I think our committee, under the leadership of the gentleman from Alaska (Chairman YOUNG) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), has worked in a very constructive and bipartisan way. It does not mean we always agree, but I think we have a better product because I think we are each looking at things and sharing our different perspectives and trying to work out something that is in the best interest of our country.

I obviously would be remiss if I did not acknowledge and thank very heartily Debbie Gephardt on my staff, who has spent many years on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure staff.

We sometimes up here do not properly acknowledge the hard-working career people, in this case at the United States Department of Transportation, who provide the analysis and, hopefully, the facts that enable us to at least have some idea of what we are trying to accomplish and whether we are succeeding in that effort. Susan Binder, Ross Kreiton, and Rita Merish in particular have been tireless and have been available 24 hours a day to do runs and to provide information and have helped the process enormously.

Mr. Speaker, today we come to the end of a 2-year odyssey as we have worked to put together a transportation reauthorization bill. We face tremendous expectations and pressures with a finite amount of money, much less than is necessary to meet the overwhelming transportation needs across our United States.

During this reauthorization effort, I and others on the committee have traveled to cities across the Nation and met with governors, mayors, business and labor interests and others, seen firsthand the many critical and necessary information projects that we as a Nation need to complete.

The report before us today is a step forward in helping to meet those needs. A total of \$295 billion in contract authority and \$286-plus billion in guaranteed spending over 6 years is provided for Federal highway, transit and safety programs.

The conferees were sensitive to the needs of donor States as well as donee States. Donor States will see increases in their rates of return, reaching a 92 percent rate of return in 2008 and 2009. There is a minimum growth rate of 19 percent to protect other States.

A revamped highway safety construction program has been included. Likewise, we have revised the current border program into a formula fund to meet increasing needs for States facing high infrastructure costs from increasing foreign trade growing traffic.

Environmental streamlining, planning and other administrative improvements seek to make project delivery more efficient without lessening needed environmental protections. Safety programs administered by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the National Traffic Safety Administration will see increased funding. Important new initiatives to encourage seatbelt use, decrease drunk driving, and enhance motorcycle training and education opportunities are included in this legislation.

I am particularly pleased that this conference report contains many provisions that were included in legislation I introduced last Congress to help consumers who find themselves at the mercy of unscrupulous movers. While

the overwhelming majority of household good movers are honest businesses, it has become clear that we need greater enforcement tools. In this bill we are providing authority to the States to enforce Federal regulations geared to protect consumers and supplement the efforts of the U.S. Department of Transportation in overseeing over 1.5 million interstate moves per year. New penalties are created and opportunities for consumer information will be enhanced.

The bill also looks to the future in assessing the critical issues that we must confront if we are to have a first-class infrastructure that is so necessary to remain competitive and to spur economic prosperity. The bill contains several important provisions regarding future transportation needs, in particular, freight needs and financing of the highway trust fund.

Currently, the trust fund is financed by the Federal gas taxes. With the rise of alternative fuels and greater fuel efficiency, this is just not cutting it any more. We are relying on a 20th century mechanism in a 21st century world. Future trust fund revenue projections are not encouraging, so we must confront this issue sooner rather than later.

It is perhaps appropriate that we are passing this conference report today as a tribute to the current Federal Highway Administrator, Mary Peters, who will be retiring on July 31 after more than 4 years of dedicated service at the Department of Transportation. I would like to wish Mary and her husband well as they ride their Harleys to their new life back in their home State of Arizona.

Our former colleague and chairman of the Public Works Committee, Secretary Norm Mineta, has also provided his usual reliable advice and counsel in crafting this legislation.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the Chair and ranking member for their efforts, and the subcommittee chair and the subcommittee ranking member. We are so delighted to come to this point, and I know that our ranking member of the full committee is probably so worn out he cannot get here today. But I would like to commend all of that leadership for the diligence, the good works, and the good attitude, the inclusiveness, and the long overdue legislation as a result for the American people.

And, foremost, the staff; I want to associate myself with the previous speakers' recognizing and complimenting the staff because we could not have done it without them.

I thank the Senate for their quick action. I just watched the Senator get up and talk about how important it was not to hold up the bill. But today we in the House of Representatives send a clear message to the American people that investment in America's transportation system is a top priority. This

bill will help to create new, good-paying jobs, promote economic development, address congestion, air quality and highway safety problems.

Since 2003 the Nation has anxiously awaited a transportation reauthorization bill, and rightly so. Each year the American people waste 3.7 billion hours in traffic gridlock, 2.3 billion gallons of fuel, to a total cost of \$63 billion. We need to address these issues.

In addition to this congestion cost, the ever-deteriorating infrastructure of this country desperately needs attention. Late last year, the Texas Section of the Civil Engineers released a 2004 report card in which the State's infrastructure received a dismal cumulative assessment of below average.

An ever-increasing population is placing enormous strain on highway capacity. The Texas Transportation Commission can fund less than 40 percent of the worthy road and highway projects; 12,000 of the State's 48,000 bridges are structural deficient, and deteriorating air quality poses an even greater risk to the health of residents, particularly seniors and children.

In closing, I am delighted the product before us is finally one step away from bringing the much-needed funding certainty to our States and communities that have sought them since the expiration of TEA 21. While I regret the investment level falls short of the Transportation Department's \$375 billion estimate that they advocated, our committee responded that this investment level represents a good step in the direction of the Nation's transportation needs.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), the great Speaker of this House. I deeply appreciate his efforts in getting this legislation passed.

(Mr. HASTERT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a minute to, first of all, congratulate the people who worked for years to make this bill possible. First of all, our chairman, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI), the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for their hard work in getting this done, and their staffs.

As we know, in the legislative process, sometimes everything does not turn out exactly perfect the way we envision when we began. But this bill is a result of people working together on both sides of the aisle, setting goals, moving toward those goals, talking to each other, listening to each other. And it is a very good thing.

What this bill also means as we move our people and our products across this country, whether it be highway or rail or people by transit, we can do it in a better and more efficient way.

So many areas have unique needs. We have growth areas. We have huge expanses across this country with not very many people, but yet we need to move the goods and products across this Nation. We have a railroad industry that some bridges go back almost 150 years. But we need to modernize and we need to move forward because if we are going to be an economic trader in the years to come, if we are going to be able to move our products from the East Coast to the West Coast on things we manufacture and produce and buy, then we need to have the transportation to move it. This bill will make that possible.

I think of the hours of days every week that commuters sit on clogged interstates, intersections, commuter highways, and the waste of American energy and productivity; this bill will begin to help that issue. As a father, I can think of all those hours that families sit on those interstates slowly moving along, and kids say, Daddy, when are we going to get there? Maybe with this bill, we may have to answer that three or four less times in our lives.

I appreciate the great effort to get this bill done. Let us move to it.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the leadership. I want to acknowledge the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT). I know the gentleman has played a key role; perhaps unlike any Speaker in history, with the difficult dynamic we had, he played a key role. I appreciate the committee leadership that has been acknowledged.

I would also like to express my appreciation for what people out in the country did. We have assembled the largest coalition in support of infrastructure investment in the history of the United States. Groups that ranged from the Women's Federated Garden Club of America, organized labor, environmentalists, people who move freight, people who build the facilities all came together with community activists to provide a critical push, given the political difficulties that all have acknowledged.

It was testimony also to the people who know how important these transportation investments are.

I appreciate being able to have a series of things in this legislation that I care deeply about. I have been working on small starts legislation that would help with streetcars, with commuter rail, with bus rapid transit, and I appreciate the committee having 3 years of investment that is going to help give communities more choices. And certainly with the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) and the ranking committee member, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), we were assured that this was going to be the best bicycle bill in the history of the United States, and we have it.

I am also appreciative that we have been able, through all of the travails,

to keep the fundamental framework of the historic 1991 ISTEA legislation. This legislation produced the flexibility, it produced new tools for communities, it had a bias for being able to plan and put together the pieces right.

We have had lots of upheaval in Washington, D.C. and in the countryside since 1991. It has not been without controversy, but the basic framework is intact. And it means, even though this is not as much money as I would like to see us invest in America's infrastructure, it will be spent more efficiently in ways that communities want.

□ 1045

Because it has taken us 2 years to get to this point, one other thing should be reflected upon. We only have 4 years before we are doing it all over again. I hope that we take this time, learn from the experience, keep the coalition alive in Congress and in the country to make sure that when we come back here in 4 years, which is, sadly, a very short time in terms of major policy, that we are able to build on this, not get hung up over the level of funding, and that we are able to deal with critical questions that cry out for adjustment.

We need to think about what the appropriate role is for Federal oversight. There is a lot of work that is done with the Department of Transportation, frankly, that costs people money in time and energy that may no longer be necessary. I hope we are able to look at that role and gear appropriate Federal oversight in ways that add value, not take it away.

I think it is time for us to look at the match methodology, to have a uniform set of match provisions so that we are not affecting the transportation decisions based on how many dollars we give to the particular project. We need to develop more new tools like the Small Starts project. We have to critically focus on urban freight mobility.

This legislation moves us in the right direction, but we have a long way to go, and I do not think individuals have spent enough time and energy working in their own districts to craft the appropriate solutions. We need to look at the critical connections and refine the connections between rail, air, and roads. The Speaker referenced them in his presentation, but it is not just investing in each of them, it is how they fit together and enhance one another.

Mr. Speaker, there is no better Federal investment than in infrastructure that deals with the environment and transportation in communities. Spent properly, it is the best dollar spent to strengthen that community, make our families safe, healthy, and economically secure. This bill is a step in the right direction, and I look forward to working to make sure that it is implemented properly.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means,

who worked very hard on this legislation.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, appropriately so, a number of people have been complimented. I too want to indicate that the reason this bill was so difficult is because there was not enough money to deal with the infrastructure needs of this country. As the keeper of the purse strings, I am very conscious of the amount of money that we have available. Between now and the next time we try this, we are simply going to have to rethink the way we provide for the infrastructure in this country. We are succeeding in areas that damage us in raising revenue to improve infrastructure.

Every page of this bill, Mr. Speaker, has been built on accommodation and compromise. I want to thank the staff, who have all earned graduate degrees in bill assembly. It was an extremely difficult job. But I want to say this: When we come back in September, we are going to begin addressing legislative needs of an aging American society. There will be critics of this legislation. It has been said in various ways, and I want to underscore it, that not only is America aging but America's infrastructure in many parts of this country, bridges, tunnels, and others, are octogenarians and older. It is foolish not to make sure that we maintain the infrastructure that we have.

Ironically, in some parts of the country, it requires new construction, highways, transit and other costly infrastructure improvements. But without doing it, without doing it, it will cost us billions. It has been recited how much it costs us today. Today, we present \$286.4 billion worth of cost. Society will present us on a daily basis, through congestion and failure to build the right structures, a price tag over the next 5 years far greater than the price tag that is presented today. Today, you see the dollar amount. Over the next 5 years, we will accumulate a cost of a far greater amount.

I want to compliment those who put this together. I look forward to working with you in solving the financing structure. As we get better, there is no reason why the Highway Trust Fund should grow less. We need to rethink the way in which we pay for the infrastructure in this country.

I want to thank all of you for the most pleasant experience of operating in an institutional way to make this place work. Thank you. It was a lot of fun.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN).

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI), and the ranking members, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) and the gen-

tleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for their leadership and hard work in finally getting TEA-LU to this point so that we can pass a bill and get a bill signed into law.

This bill is almost 2 years overdue and should certainly include more money, but this bill will be a large win for the American people. This bill will provide billions of dollars for highway infrastructure improvement, transit systems, new buses and bus stops, congestion relief programs, and safety enhancements. It will also create millions of new jobs in transportation-related industries and will save thousands of lives each year.

Transportation funding is a win-win for everyone involved. States get to improve transportation infrastructure that create economic development, put people back to work, enhance safety, and improve local communities.

Finally, I want to ask the ranking member to engage me in a colloquy to discuss an issue that did not get included in the bill but is important to the cattlemen in my home State of Florida. The current weight limitations for Florida cattlemen's shipment is 800 pounds. However, neighboring States are grandfathered in at a higher weight limit, placing Florida at a competitive disadvantage with its neighboring States.

The Florida delegation is asking that the committee make every effort to improve this unfair situation in the rulemaking process and to ensure that there is a fair playing field for Florida cattlemen.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman. She has been a very able advocate for the economic interests of her State, as have other Members of the Florida delegation. I want to assure her that at least on this side of the aisle, and I am certain on the other side of the aisle, we understand these problems and assure her we will work with her to try to reach some resolution that is fair to all.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments; and, as I take my seat, I want to once again thank the chairman and the ranking member for their leadership.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN), chairman of the great Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alaska for yielding me this time; and I want, first of all, to thank him for the Herculean job he has done on this legislation. My dad told me years ago, and I do not remember what it was about, but he said everything looks easy from a distance. Well, I can tell you, this legislation did not look easy from a distance or from close up.

The chairman of our full committee, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the ranking member, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), and our subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI), and his ranking member, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), had to work with 535 Members of the House and Senate. Each time we would come within a hair of finishing this bill, some glitch would develop and some problem; and I can tell you that I cannot express strongly enough my admiration and respect for Chairman YOUNG and Chairman PETRI and ranking members OBERSTAR and DEFAZIO for the work they have done.

One national magazine, Mr. Speaker, estimated we lose \$67 billion a year due to congestion costs and people being stuck in traffic. As one other Member just said a moment ago, this job will save thousands of lives over these next 5 years. We have spent several hundreds of billions of dollars each year in other countries, Mr. Speaker, through every department and agency of the Federal Government, but this is an American bill. This is a bill to do things for the people of this country and to put our own people first.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of this. This is a 6-year bill with 5 years left. It sounds like a lot of money, and it is, but when you divide it by six, it really does not cover the infrastructure needs of this Nation. I can tell you that I especially appreciate what is in this bill for my constituents in east Tennessee.

This bill is progress for America. It is one of the finest products that has come out of this Congress in a long, long time; and it was a privilege for me to be a small part of it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). Without objection, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) is recognized to manage the time on the minority side.

There was no objection.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO).

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and let me say that I rise in strong support of this conference report. I would like to say thank you for a job well done to the chairman of the full committee and the chairman of the conference, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), who did an outstanding job working on this legislation, as well as the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI), and the ranking member of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and certainly the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), who has not only worked very hard in this conference but is a champion for transportation in general in the House of Representatives. Without the strong support and leadership of Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member OBERSTAR and Subcommittee Chairman PETRI and Ranking Member DEFAZIO, we would not be here today.

Let me say that our interstate highway system is 50 years old, and 32 percent of our major roads are either in poor or mediocre condition. Twenty-nine percent of our bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, and 36 percent of the Nation's urban rail vehicles and maintenance facilities are in substandard or poor condition. This legislation is essential, for it increases investments in our roads, our bridges, and it allows States and our local communities to not only maintain but to improve their transportation system.

Despite this long process and all of the time that it has taken, let me say that we are here today to vote on what I believe is a good 5-year conference bill. H.R. 3 provides \$286.4 billion over 5 years, which is a 30.32 percent increase over the last highway bill that we passed in the Congress.

I am also pleased that we were able to retain a section in this conference report for national programs of significance, otherwise known as megaprojects, in this bill. These projects are extremely important to not only our regions but also they are important to the Nation as well, and I am grateful to the chairman of the committee and also my friend, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI), and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for including in this conference report a significant amount of money from the megaproject fund for the new Mississippi River bridge in the St. Louis region. It not only will provide relief to congestion in the region but also to the Nation.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support and to vote for this conference report.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to acknowledge the presence of the ranking member, my good friend, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR). He has been absent from the floor because he was stuck in traffic. What better thing could happen to him today as we pass this magnificent bill. As we can see, he is here. I welcome him here, and we will be discussing this a little later on. Welcome.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

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Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today feeling a little like a skunk at a wedding, or probably more accurately, road kill. I will cast later today what I am sure will be a lonely vote against this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this is the last highway authorization bill we do in this fashion. In 1986, President Reagan vetoed the bill because of what he said were excessive earmarks or projects. I believe there were some 150 in that bill. There are nearly 6,000 in this bill today. That is no way to spend money.

As more earmarks come, fewer dollars as a percentage actually go to crit-

ical needs. It is spent in other directions, and it is not the direction we ought to go. Equally troubling in this bill are budget gimmicks, the biggest one being that we rescind on the last day of reauthorization \$8.6 billion to bring this under the number that the President said he will not veto.

I would submit that nobody actually believes we are going to rescind that money. Let us be honest about this: This is busting the budget. I urge Members to vote "no."

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD).

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, hallelujah; finally, we have a transportation bill. I would like to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their leadership and their strong support on relieving gridlock on our highways and mobilizing people and moving goods. That is why I rise in support of final passage of H.R. 3.

As a member of the committee and a conferee on this bill, I have been supportive throughout this process. I will be quick and to the point.

The bill is long overdue, 22 months to be exact. This has been a long process, but I want to focus on the new beginnings that passage of this bill will provide for my constituents and the many businesses across this country. The bill is not everything we wanted, but it is a start. It will provide mobility for millions of people, create jobs, reduce congestion, and improve the movement of our Nation's goods. It will benefit the country and it will certainly benefit my home State of California.

I want to thank the leadership for including my language for the Projects of National and Regional Significance in the final version of this bill. The focus of the Projects of National and Regional Significance during the conference committee has been on the funding for critical, high-cost transportation facilities, and as we know, it is an imperative for the future.

However, including the definition of this new program and listing the criteria for what constitutes a Project of National and Regional Significance in this bill is just as important. The new program will provide the framework for the ongoing funding of larger projects that contribute to the economic vitality of our national and regional economies. This program is about the future of our transportation infrastructure and the growth of our national economy.

I would like to thank my ranking member on the subcommittee, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and the chairman, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI), for their even and measured approach throughout this reauthorization process. Their insight, understanding and vision on what transportation infrastructure can be and should do is evident throughout this bill. I thank you all for what you have done for California and this Nation.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER), a member of the committee.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I see on the chairman's face a sigh of relief this morning. I know this has been an arduous process, dealing with some of the issues, especially in the last 2 weeks. This is very good for this country, and specifically for my State of California.

Many things that are good take time. This is one thing that took time to percolate. Everybody would have liked to have seen more money, but we are not going to break the budget. We are going to work within the dollars we have, but this is huge. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) has worked very hard, along with the ranking member, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR). And the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS) worked hard trying to provide the funds.

In California, probably the most significant project, in my opinion, would be the Alameda corridor. We have the Port of San Pedro and Long Beach, which handles about 40 percent of all of the commerce shipped into this country and out of this country, and our communities are being tremendously impacted by that. We have a good amount of money coming back to California to start this project. We have been given assurances that when the moneys are needed, the funds will be provided to complete this project.

Yes, there are things we would prefer to have changed in this bill, but the bill we are bringing back to the people of our Nation, specifically California, is good. It will provide jobs. People are sitting in traffic, sitting at grade crossings watching trains go by. Our job is to provide relief and ensure that commerce can flow, people can drive to and from work, they can get their kids to school without being impacted by traffic issues.

The State of California has very few dollars, almost zero in the last few years, to provide for traffic issues and infrastructure and the needs that we have for bridges and highways in California. These dollars going back to California are tremendous. Once again, I thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) for his leadership on this bill.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

First of all, let me join my colleagues in thanking the gentleman from Alaska (Chairman YOUNG), the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the gentleman from Wisconsin (Chairman PETRI), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for bringing this bill to fruition. I know it was not easy. It was a heavy lift.

I am particularly grateful because in my district, the 11th Congressional District of Georgia, we have a project called the 411 Connector. We have been working on that at the State level for 25 years. It is a very congested area. It involves Floyd and Bartow Counties in particular, and will connect a congested road to I-75.

We have had great help on that project from the gentleman from Alaska (Chairman YOUNG) in getting the necessary funding. I want to thank my two Senators, Senators CHAMBLISS and ISAAKSON. I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) for helping us keep the necessary funding for this project. Certainly, I thank Secretary Norman Mineta for placing this on a fast track list of only six projects in this country.

Last but not least, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mary Peters. I heard the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) say she would be retiring to her home State of Arizona. Highway Administrator Peters came to my district, met with the folks from Bartow and Floyd Counties, and talked to us about how to get this project, apply for fast track; and I am very grateful to her for those efforts.

I want to say to Mary Peters, good luck on her retirement and be safe on that motorcycle in Arizona, and just ask all of my colleagues to support this bill, as I know they will.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. OBERSTAR asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, there is an old saying, success has a thousand fathers, failure is an orphan. We bring to this House success with at least 435 parents, starting with the Speaker of the House, who is a strong advocate for the original bill that the gentleman from Alaska (Chairman YOUNG) and I introduced, and nearly all of the members of our committee, for \$375 billion, to respond to the Nation's transportation needs over the next 6 years. We did that in 2003 at a time when gasoline was selling for \$1.34 a gallon.

I appreciate the Speaker being an advocate for a robust investment, but I even more appreciate the gentleman from Alaska (Chairman YOUNG) for advocating before his conference this level of investment that we did not pick out of the thin air, but that was recommended by the Department of Transportation as directed in TEA-21 to evaluate paving condition, bridge condition, safety needs, and congestion across the country; and they came back with their estimates, after consulting with all of the States and all of the transportation experts, what it should be, and we did what we thought should be.

When the chairman broke his pick on that number after vigorous advocacy, we agreed to scale the bill back incrementally, further down the ladder to

below \$300 billion, and then down to \$275 billion. We brought that bill to the House floor last year, and it passed; we went to conference with the Senate and they could come to no resolution, as we quaintly say in this body.

We had a little higher threshold. We came back this year, and while TV and newspaper stories report conflict and gridlock in Congress, there is no black smoke coming out of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure committee room. There is no discord or disagreement on how to approach policy issues. They are resolved in a thoughtful, constructive, and positive way that brought a bill that every one of us on both sides of the aisle could support, as if there were no aisle. For that, I express my deep appreciation and admiration for the gentleman from Alaska (Chairman YOUNG), whose patience nurtured the process along, whose impatience prodded the other body along, whose smile deflected critics, and whose scowl sent them skittering.

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI), the chairman of the subcommittee, whose thoughtful and deliberative approach over many years on this committee contributed enormously to our work product. The ranking member, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), plunged into this subject matter, mastered the issues, and became a vigorous and constructive advocate of all of the principal features of the bill. The gentleman has been an extraordinary, constructive partner.

This bill, in the end, was a measure so loved that all who were interested came to it bearing gifts and adorned it like a tree. At the end, one by one, we took those ornaments off until there was only one remaining last night; and that one, too, has been put back in its box to await another vehicle, perhaps a future omnibus bill where that ornament will be plucked out and hung on another tree. For now we have a tree of solid oak for this century, an investment in transportation, highways and bridges and transit and safety, tripling the investment in safety that we had in TEA-21.

Most importantly, this bill will move us in the direction of reclaiming our productivity in the marketplace and in the world economy.

In 1987, logistics consumed 17 percent of our gross domestic product, that is, moving people and goods. Last year, logistics consumed 9 percent of our gross domestic product, and that is a \$750 billion a year gain in productivity, meaning it is less costly to move people, less costly to move goods. Take the example of UPS for whom a 5-minute delay nationwide costs \$40 million. We will make an assault upon our slipping productivity, keep momentum going, address the congestion points across America and move America forward.

This is a good bill for America. It is good for people, it is good for economic sectors, and we all ought to pass this

bill this morning and move America forward. Vote for the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report for H.R. 3, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005. I want to acknowledge the work of the Transportation Committee on this complex bill and especially thank my friend and colleague from Wisconsin, Mr. PETRI, for his leadership on the legislation; the Wisconsin delegation is lucky to have such a strong advocate for our citizens.

H.R. 3 is a significant economic development and job creation bill, and now is certainly the time that we need more jobs throughout the country. I consistently hear from constituents who are searching for work; who have sent out dozens of resumes and updated their skills but remain unemployed. Each billion dollars spent on highway funding creates not only safer and better roads, but it also creates an estimated 47,500 new jobs. An investment in highway funding is an investment for steady work for those in Wisconsin and around the nation.

In addition, I am pleased that the bill recognizes the importance of funding crucial highways and bridges in Wisconsin's Third Congressional District. Specifically, the inclusion of funding for the Stillwater Bridge, which connects Houlton, Wisconsin, and Stillwater, Minnesota, is great news for those of us who have been working on this project for years. The bridge is only one example of an important project that will provide our citizens with safer roads, shorter commutes, and better jobs.

Furthermore, I would like to recognize the important conservation provisions that are included in H.R. 3. As a hunter and fisherman, I am particularly pleased with a provision which recaptures the final 4.8 cents of the 18.3 cents per gallon tax on motorboat fuel and directs it back into the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act's Aquatic Resources Trust Fund (ARTF). This full recovery of the motorboat fuel excise tax will provide about \$110 million a year for recreational trails, new funding for signage identifying access for anglers and hunters, and vital safety programs dealing with wildlife-vehicle collisions. These important provisions make H.R. 3 the most comprehensive transportation bill for sportsmen ever created.

I am proud to have served on the conference committee to help reconcile this bill so it could reach the House and Senate for a final vote. Moreover, I would like to thank Senators KOHL and FEINGOLD for all the work they have done with this bill to make sure that it benefits the citizens of Wisconsin. The long-awaited passage of this bill is great news for western Wisconsin. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member OBERSTAR, as well as the Subcommittee leadership for their hard work in crafting the underlying legislation. I consider the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the appointed Conferees for this bill to be a "club" of sorts, and it is in that vein that I commend them for the tremendous job appropriate funding for surface transportation projects and environmental mitigation projects of importance to every congressional district.

Not only am I pleased that the Conference Report contains authorization and appropriations of \$12.8 billion for priority infrastructure and surface transportation projects in my District of Houston, Texas, but I am happy that other provisions provide for the investment of tax dollars for the creation of jobs, economic growth, and improved productivity.

Mr. Speaker, the actions taken in this bill will be instrumental in moving forward with an expansion of transit service that is so greatly needed in the Houston area. I want to thank the entire Houston delegation and most importantly Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON for her work on the earmark for Houston METRO. It is very important that we work together in a united fashion to improve mobility for the Nation's fourth largest city. I have worked for many years to help Houston METRO and am glad we can take the next big step in implementing valuable transportation and mobility improvements because of this bill.

The Greater Houston area is subdivided into 6 counties: Chambers, Fort Bend, Liberty, Montgomery, Waller, and my District, Harris. Harris County contains the city of Houston and the largest concentration of people. In the year 2000, approximately 3.5 million people lived in Harris County alone—by far the most populous area. Over the next twenty years, the population of the Houston region will continue to grow.

The Historic Fourth Ward in Houston is long overdue for major transportation improvements that have thankfully been addressed in earmarks contained within the Conference Report. The Fourth Ward emerged as Houston's most prominent African-American neighborhood when thousands of freed slaves flooded into the city after emancipation. These newcomers settled on the fringes of the third, fifth, and fourth wards. The Freedmentown area north of San Felipe and the streets west of downtown not only attracted the largest number of the new black residents but also housed the first black churches, schools, and political organizations. Several factors combined to facilitate the subsequent growth of the Fourth Ward's black community. I thank the conferees for their hard work in retaining important project funding such as this.

Continued improvement to Houston's and Texas' infrastructure will be the priority for me and my colleagues, and H.R. 3 represents a major advancement toward that goal. For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives approved the conference report for H.R. 3, the six-year reauthorization of highway and transit programs. I regrettably voted against this legislation because I believe it represents a disservice to American taxpayers. With an advertised cost of over \$286 billion, the bill on its face is more than \$2 billion over what President Bush has threatened to veto. More importantly though, the bill contains a gimmick that disguises significant spending and undermines the integrity of the entire Congressional budget process. Several times already this year I have opposed legislation that violates either the Budget Act or spending limits established by the Congress. We agreed to these budget levels and the discipline of the Budget Act. We must learn to live by them or we will leave our children and grandchildren a huge and unfair financial burden as their inheritance.

Unless Congress breaks with decades of historical precedent and rescinds \$8.5 billion

in funding in 2009 (on the last day of the bill's authorization), the budget gimmick brings the true total to \$295 billion. There are many worthwhile projects in this bill that are good for Texas and for the nation. We should be spending Federal highway funds on needed highways and bridges, gravel and concrete, not millions of dollars on the Henry Ford Museum in Michigan, graffiti elimination in New York City or hundreds of millions for a bridge in Alaska so the few residents of a remote island can avoid a 7 minute ferry ride.

The budget ruse and the wasteful items in this legislation are a disservice to the American people, who count on Congress to ensure we have the necessary infrastructure to sustain continued growth in our economy. We need roads to move commuters quickly, safely and efficiently and so businesses can ship goods. We do not need H.R. 3 as written. I know my position is often lonely in attempting to protect the integrity of our Budget Act and the discipline it represents. Still I believe the work is critical and I will continue to try to be a leader in this area in the House.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program provisions contained in H.R. 3 the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity: A Legacy for Users Act.

While we have made some progress in getting participation by minority-owned businesses in the Federal-Aid highway and transit programs, we still need the DBE program to encourage further advances in this area.

We have seen that when DBE programs end, many prime contractors return to the same exclusionary practices that deny minorities and women the chance to compete for business underscoring the continued need for the DBE program. Let me also make clear that the DBE program is not a quota program. The goals in the program represent a national target for the Department of Transportation; state and local recipients of DOT funding set their own goals for DOT participation in construction projects based on the availability of disadvantaged businesses in their markets. There is never an absolute requirement that a particular goal be met.

The DBE program is based on a simple premise of equal opportunity. It requires all contractors bidding for Federal highway projects to do so on an equal footing, regardless of gender or of race. Federal highway projects should be awarded to companies owned by individuals who for decades, for decades were effectively shut out from this industry. I believe that the DBE program in this bill is needed to open opportunities for women and minorities in the highway construction industry. It is a program important to a wide range of socially and economically disadvantaged persons.

Mr. Speaker, time has shown that the DBE program works. It is a program that meets constitutional muster. It is a program that has a rational, national compelling interest. Again, I stand here today to express my strong support for a program that has proven to be of enormous benefit to countless minority- and women-owned businesses in the country.

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to congratulate the conferees on completing their work to fund our nation's transportation needs for the next 5 years. Mr. YOUNG, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. PETRI and Mr. DEFAZIO in particular

deserve credit for clearing the final legislative hurdle to making SAFETEA—LU a reality. After 11 extensions of TEA—21 and two years of debate, I am glad to see this day come.

As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee that approved a \$375 billion highway authorization bill in 2003, I supported H.R. 3 when it passed the House despite feeling that more funding was needed. I was happy to see that the total funding package in the conference report totals \$286.4 billion, a 30 percent increase over the total highway funding in the last authorization bill passed in 1998. I wish the Congress had followed the Department of Transportation's own needs assessment and funded the bill at \$375 billion, but I accept this compromise as a way to get much needed money to states and localities that need it now.

New York City will see a 23 percent increase in overall funding under this bill, about \$8.5 billion dollars overall. In highway funds the city will benefit from about \$3 billion, a 19 percent increase; and in transit funds the city will see \$5.5 billion, a 30 percent increase. The 19 percent increase in New York City and state highway funding is of the utmost importance: it grows the state's federal funding stream above the rate of inflation and will allow for planned development to proceed.

On the matter of the minimum guarantee, I am a firm believer that states like New York should not be punished for having efficient transportation systems that keep fuel consumption down. I advocated for a 90.5 percent minimum guarantee in the bill. Given that some of my colleagues had called for a 95 percent minimum guarantee to favor states like Texas, I accept the conference report's 90.5 percent minimum guarantee that balloons to 92 percent by 2008.

I would also like to commend the conferees for settling on Senate language related to grants under the Intelligent Transportation Infrastructure Program. The language in the conference report will allow for new contracts to be awarded as the program expands into new cities instead of making all new projects subject to the old sole-source contract. In each case the state transportation agency will be required to consent to any grant award made. This arrangement will promote competition among vendors and place all firms capable of installing and operating traffic data collection infrastructure on a level playing field.

Mr. Speaker, I have worked hard to ensure that this bill will make significant improvements to the lives of ordinary New Yorkers. Included in this bill are a number of projects that will enhance transportation throughout New York City and in my district in particular.

At my urging, the bill includes:

\$15,000,000 for the New York City Department of Transportation to build the facilities and purchase the ferry boats necessary to establish high speed ferry service between the Rockaway Peninsula and Manhattan.

\$500,000 to help the New York State Department of Transportation install two permanent variable message signs that will display amber alert messages on the Belt Parkway.

\$250,000 for the New York City Department of Transportation to study and implement pedestrian safety enhancements in Gerritsen Beach, Brooklyn.

\$1,000,000 for the New York City Department of Transportation to study and implement traffic improvements to the area surrounding

the Stillwell Avenue train station in Coney Island, New York.

\$600,000 for each of the boroughs of New York City to make improvements to pedestrian safety, allocated within each borough according to feedback collected on my website from New York City residents.

\$250,000 for the areas surrounding each of 10 schools in New York City. Those funds are to be spent on efforts to improve pedestrian safety surrounding those 10 schools. Students walking to IS Q114 in Belle Harbor, PS Q200 in Electchester, PS K124 in Park Slope, PS K277 in Gerritsen Beach, Prospect Park Yeshiva in Midwood, PS X81 in Riverdale, IS X194 in Parkchester, IS R72/PS R69 in New Springville, PS Q153 in Maspeth, and St. Roberts Bellarmine in Bayside will all be better protected by improvements installed with funding provided in TEA-LU.

\$500,000 to make improvement to pedestrian safety in the Riverdale neighborhood of the Bronx in consultation with Rep. Eliot Engel and New York State Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz.

\$500,000 for pedestrian safety improvements on Queens Boulevard.

\$700,000 to abate noise emanating from I-95, I-278, Mosholu Parkway, I-495, Grand Central Parkway, and Richmond Parkway: all state roadways located within New York City that are paved with concrete. "Diamond grinding" measures should significantly improve the quality of life of those residing within earshot of those roadways.

\$550,000 to improve the roadways surrounding the Brooklyn Children's Museum.

\$1,000,000 to be used to build a new facility for the Broad Channel Volunteer Fire Department.

\$5,750,000 to be used by the Doe Fund to establish a graffiti elimination program throughout the city of New York. It is my intent that my \$4.75 million project for graffiti removal in Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island and the Bronx be used in the neighborhoods of Woodside, Bensonhurst, Boerum Hill, Astoria, Cobble Hill, Windsor Terrace, Hollis Wood, Park Slope, Kensington, Glendale, Borough Park, Williamsburg, Carroll Gardens, Whitestone, Jamaica Estates, Bath Beach, Dyker Heights, Crown Heights, Flatbush, Midwood, Jamaica Hills, Grand Street, and Kings Highway from Ocean Parkway to McDonald Avenue. It is further my intent that \$250,000 of this money will be applied to the Soundview, Castle Hill, Throgs Neck and Morris Park neighborhoods in the Bronx, at the urging of Rep. Joseph Crowley. I have also included \$500,000 for Smith Street in Brooklyn and \$500,000 for the Riverdale neighborhood.

\$2,000,000 to improve transportation facilities in the vicinity of West 65th Street and Broadway in conjunction with the major capital improvements being done at Lincoln Center.

\$500,000 to be equally distributed at five locations in New York City for the New York City Department of Transportation to enhance the enforcement of truck routes. The five locations are:

The Long Island Expressway Eastbound Service Road at 74th Street to Caldwell Ave, Grand Ave from 69th Street to Flushing Ave, and Eliot Ave from 69th Street to Woodhaven Blvd

Avenue P between Coney Island Avenue and Ocean Avenue in the 9th District of New York

The 9th Street and 3rd Avenue intersection in Brooklyn

From Broadway to Irwin Ave between 232 to 231 in the neighborhood of Kingsbridge, New York

Victory Blvd Between Travis Ave and West Shore Expressway Travis Section of Staten Island

\$300,000 for Gateway National Park to improve the Riis Park Boardwalk.

\$2,000,000 to be used to improve traffic flow in the vicinity of the Atlantic Yards Development in Brooklyn.

\$1,000,000 to be used by City and State Agencies to improve homeland security at bridges and tunnels throughout New York City.

\$500,000 to improve the roads and facilities at the Kew Gardens Long Island Rail Road Terminal.

\$950,000 to design and construct a bicycle and pedestrian walkway along the decommissioned Putnam Rail Line in the Bronx at the advice of Representative ELIOT ENGEL.

\$2,000,000 to improve 125th Street in Harlem in conjunction with improvements being made by Columbia University.

\$2,000,000 to implement congestion reduction measures on Staten Island at the urging of New York State Assemblyman Michael Cusick.

\$500,000 to install traffic safety measures at the intersection of Rockaway Point Boulevard and Reid Avenue in the Breezy Point neighborhood.

\$1,400,000 to repair and improve streets in Astoria, Queens that were damaged by water main breaks.

\$836,000 to help Easter Seals purchase and equip cars that provide livery service to disabled New Yorkers.

And \$836,000 to establish a bus rapid transit system at a location to be determined in consultation with the Transportation Workers Union. Bus rapid transit uses a variety of traffic improvements, like exclusive bus lanes and coordinated signal changing, to speed bus travel on congested city routes.

These high priority projects will make a considerable contribution to the lives of New York City residents. I could not have secured these and other programs within TEA-LU without the help and counsel of individuals here in Washington, as well as in Albany and New York City.

In particular, I would like to thank both the Democratic and Republican staff of the Transportation Committee, both of whom worked tirelessly on this piece of legislation, and who deserve the entire Congress' thanks. In particular, I would like to thank Ken House, Eric VanSchyndle, Ward McCarragher, Kathleen Zern, David Heymsfeld, and Dara Schleiker of Mr. OBERSTAR's staff.

I would also like to thank Tom Kearney, Tom Herritt and their colleagues at the Albany Office of the Federal Highway Administration, Nancy Ross, Fred Neveu, Ron Epstein and their colleagues at the New York State Department of Transportation, and Andra Horsch and David Woloch and their colleagues at the New York City Department of Transportation.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, as we consider the conference report for H.R. 3, I would like to express my appreciation to the Chairman and Ranking Member for their work on this important piece of legislation, and in particular, I would like to recognize the inclusion of measures that will reauthorize the U.S. Department of Transportation's disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) program.

The DBE program ensures equal contracting opportunities for women- and minority-owned firms. It is an innovative program that expressly prohibits quotas, and instead seeks to enhance contracting opportunities whenever possible through race and gender neutral means. The constitutionality of the DBE program has been upheld in every court that has considered its constitutionality, including three federal circuit courts.

The DBE program has helped change the construction industry since it was first established over two decades ago. However, it continues to be a necessary tool for combating the continuing effects of discrimination in the highway construction industry and for creating a level playing field among highway construction contractors.

MGT of America, Inc., a consulting company, produced a disparity report of the North Texas Tollway Authority. This 2002 report finds underutilization of minority and women owned business entities in four of the North Texas Tollway Authority's contracting markets. It reports that minority and women owned business entities are available to supply 33 percent of the construction market; 14.3 percent of the professional services market; 9.7 percent of the consulting services market; and 6.4 percent of the goods and services procurement market for the North Texas Tollway Authority. However, in the construction market, there was substantial underutilization in prime contracts and subcontracts. With the exception of two contracts awarded in 1998, minority and women owned firms are underutilized for professional services. The disparity indices for firms providing consulting services show overall underutilization of minority and women owned firms, and the level of utilization is substantially less than the number of firms available to do business. In the analysis of goods and services procurement, the study reveals underutilization of all women and minority owned firms except for contracts awarded to one Asian-American owned firm.

It is entirely appropriate, indeed necessary, that the reauthorization of the DBE program be included in H.R. 3. I support H.R. 3 and the DBE program, and intend to vote for its passage.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, this is a day that has been long in coming. I would first like to congratulate the distinguished chairmen and ranking members for getting near the end of this exceptionally long road to reauthorization, and I would like to thank them and the committee staff for the tremendous amount of work they've put in to make this conference report a reality.

For me, transportation is about far more than simply getting from one place to another. It's about creating jobs, stimulating the economy, revitalizing neighborhoods, cleaning our air, and making us more secure. And this bill is about more than just laying asphalt and pouring concrete. The tremendous increase in transit funding will help ease congestion, allowing all commuters to spend less frustrating time in gridlock, and more quality time with their families.

The conference report contains some very important language that will help advance the Trans-Hudson Midtown Corridor project, a series of improvements that includes a new set of passenger rail tunnels between New Jersey and Manhattan. When completed, this project will make it far easier for New Jerseyans to

get to New York for business or recreation, allowing the economy to grow on both sides of the river.

While the Trans-Hudson tunnel will help move people below the water, another major project in this bill will help keep things moving on the water. The Liberty Corridor leverages the strengths of the megaport of the East Coast, Port Newark and Port Elizabeth, to create an economic engine like no other in the country, where people can bring ideas, turn them into reality, and bring them to the world marketplace. As this bill recognizes, this is truly a project of national significance. The key to Liberty Corridor is transportation infrastructure, and the conference report contains a very generous amount of funding that will be used to upgrade the highways and railways in the Port region, allowing more cargo to flow, more jobs to be created, more brownfields to be returned to productive use, and a better quality of life for people throughout New Jersey.

There are a number of great provisions in this bill, but there is one that is conspicuously missing, and that is the Pay-to-Play protection amendment that New Jersey desperately needs. The House passed the Pascrell-Menendez-LoBiondo amendment that would allow New Jersey to combat corruption as it saw fit, but the amendment was stripped in Conference without even a vote. This is a sad statement to people who believe in clean government, and I will continue to fight to protect New Jersey's ability to restore the public's trust in the contracting process.

I look forward to working with the members of the committee to take these programs and projects that we worked so hard to turn into law and turn them into reality.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in celebrating the completion of the conference report on the transportation reauthorization.

I thank Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member OBERSTAR for their tireless leadership.

I also thank them for working with me to include funding in this bill for 9 studies that will expand research on critical issues in hazardous materials transportation.

In its Special Report 283, the Transportation Research Board found that perhaps "the most notable gap" in America's system for ensuring the safety and security of hazardous materials transportation is the lack of research that is cross-cutting and multi-modal in application.

The studies funded in SAFETEA-LU will begin to fill this gap by providing information on such issues as integrating safety and security in hazardous materials transportation, developing multi-modal emergency response guidelines, and examining hazardous materials routing. I also look forward to receiving the Department of Transportation's assessment of whether a permanent hazardous materials transportation cooperative research program is needed—as I believe it is.

I am also pleased that our conference produced a bill that includes significant provisions that support the increased development of livable communities—particularly by supporting an expansion of transit funding, transportation enhancements and the revitalization of existing roadways, and projects that significantly expand opportunities for people to hike and bike in their neighborhoods.

Finally, I want to take just a moment to reflect on how regrettable it is that the process

of funding our nation's transportation system has become so acrimonious.

It has been said that even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there. For the past two years, we have been sitting in place. I truly hope that as we confront the significant challenges in transportation that await us in the future, we will remain focused on what must be our shared goal: adequately investing in the infrastructure needed to move our nation forward.

Thus, while I do not agree with every provision in this bill, I strongly support this bill because it will provide the investment in our nation's transportation system that is so essential to keep our economy moving forward by reducing congestion, expanding funding for our nation's transit systems, and creating good-paying jobs.

I encourage my colleagues to remain focused on the future by supporting this conference report.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3, the House-Senate agreement on the "Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users." This legislation has been a long time in the making, and I applaud the conference committee for their commitment to finding a compromise that will enhance our transportation system and make our roads safer for all Americans.

Since the last highway bill expired in October 2003, this Congress has struggled to produce effective reauthorization legislation. Along the way, I have expressed a great deal of concern with specific aspects of this process. In fact, I voted against this bill in April 2004, and again this past March, due to my concern over proposed changes to the formula Congress uses to provide transportation funds to States. Under these changes, large States like Texas and Florida would have seen their funding for highway construction and transit projects increased, at the expense of small States like Delaware.

While it is important to ensure that all States receive an adequate rate-of-return from the Highway Trust Fund, the provisions in the House version of the highway bill would have diverted funds away from aging infrastructure and heavily congested roads in the northeast. I am pleased to see that the final conference report eliminates these detrimental provisions and settles on a compromise that guarantees an increased funding authorization for all States. Under this agreement, Delaware's highly stressed transportation system is expected to see a 30 percent increase in highway funds over the next few years.

I am also very pleased to see that the conference committee has included safety standards to protect against vehicle rollover, side impact crashes, roof crush, and occupant ejection—all of which were left out of the House-passed bill. There were 42,800 highway deaths in 2004, with the largest increase in fatalities occurring in rollover crashes. In early July, I joined several of my House colleagues in requesting that conferees included this language and I believe it will do a great deal to enhance safety requirements for automobiles over the next five years.

In addition, the conference report takes steps to improve the bill's environmental regulations, which have been of some concern to me throughout this debate.

Despite these and other encouraging advancements, I remain concerned over the con-

ference report's bulky price tag and excessive number of Member earmarks. This bill is by no means perfect, however it succeeds in finding a degree of balance and providing funding for essential programs across the Nation.

In Delaware, this funding cannot come soon enough. Our State is at the nexus of travel on the northeast corridor and our roads and bridges are suffering from increased traffic and highway congestion. H.R. 3 will provide the foundation for tremendous improvements in Delaware and it authorizes funding for much needed projects such as the Indian River Inlet Bridge and the hectic I-95/SR-1 interchange in New Castle County.

In 2003, we started out with an impractical proposal and a guaranteed veto threat from the President. Today, we have an agreement that is reasonable and will create jobs, boost our economy, and provide indispensable infrastructure improvements in places like Delaware. This bill has come a long way, and I commend the conferees for their dedication to finding an agreement that is both fair and effective.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this conference report on the "Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users" (TEA-LU).

While the funding provided in the bill will not meet all the needs in Colorado's Second Congressional District—let alone those of the rest of the State or the country as a whole—it does provide resources for many needed improvements.

The conference report will help our State address challenges that face Colorado as a result of a decade of rapid expansion in the northwest Denver suburbs and mountain and resort communities. Without the passage of this essential long term extension critical transportation and infrastructure needs for Colorado and the Nation will continue to be ignored.

This bill will also fuel job creation.

I am committed to continue working with the Colorado delegation, local communities and the Transportation Committee to secure essential Federal funding to get people and goods from one place to another with a focus on transit and other alternatives and improve current modes of Colorado's transportation network.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, when Congress passed ISTEA, it revolutionized policy and how our transportation dollars are spent. Congress said that we were not just investing in highways, we were going to fund a broader range of transportation modes that truly help to build more livable communities. Transit, bikes, pedestrian access, a greater role for planning and coordination so that we make sure that we are doing the right thing to improve neighborhoods, protect the environment, provide working families with better access to jobs—these were key elements in the original legislation. I am very happy that TEA-LU continues to move us in the right direction as a nation.

The team from Oregon, the entire Congressional delegation, played a critical role in making sure that this bill maintained the funding flexibility and innovative tools that Oregon has come to rely on. We also worked hard to maximize the impact in our State and the Portland Metropolitan area.

The most important element is making sure that Oregon gets its fair share, which has

been achieved in no small part due to heroic efforts on the part of PETER DEFAZIO, who played a critical role in negotiating the final elements. The Oregon Senators recently released a joint list of over \$100 million of projects of statewide significance with a number in the Portland metropolitan area. We have all worked to make sure that regional highway and transit projects are able to move along in times of difficult funding at the State level.

I am particularly pleased that we were able to secure authorization of the next round of expansion for the MAX light rail system. There are streetcar provisions that will help continue Portland's growing and nationally significant streetcar, so critical to the revitalization of neighborhoods. There are also elements that deal with vital freight movement and efforts for programs of statewide significance. There's also important bike funding, including safe routes to school and work that I had done with Congressman DEFAZIO to create a bike route from The Dalles to Eugene along the scenic Columbia River highway and down the Willamette Valley.

Most important, the delegation's work together has enabled us to begin laying the groundwork so that we will be in a stronger position from a local level and for Federal policy when it comes time for the next reauthorization. Since the current bill has been delayed for nearly two years with eleven extensions we will be right back in this process in just a couple of years, so it is critical that we take advantage of these investments and continue an aggressive future program.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit this letter from the President of the Maryland Washington Minority Contractor's Association detailing the discrimination that his members continue to face in transportation contracting.

MD. WASHINGTON MINORITY
CONTRACTOR'S ASSOCIATION, INC.,
Baltimore, MD, July 21, 2005.

Re: Reauthorization of DBE program.

U.S. CONGRESS,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SIR OR MADAME: I address this correspondence to you on a matter of extreme importance. Discrimination against one's racial, ethnic and gender make-up is still the number one impediment for minority entrepreneurs starting and sustaining their businesses in America today. As the leader of a minority trade association in Baltimore, Maryland, I have witnessed and received testimony from many who have experienced first hand the evils of procurement discrimination in Government and private sectors.

The findings from disparity studies conducted throughout Maryland indicate that countless minority businesses are not being provided opportunities to grow their businesses because of a lack of capital, bonding and retained earnings. Upon attending a recent public hearing at the headquarters of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) on the subject of its recent disparity study, I heard a disadvantaged African American business testify that if the WSSC suspends the DBE program, his company would be out of business. This particular company supplies valves and manhole covers to WSSC. The owner of the business further stated that other water supply and treatment centers in the region who do not have DBE programs won't buy from him because he can't get the foundries to supply him. The foundries that do supply him do so only to satisfy WSSC's DBE program.

If the DBE program is not reauthorized, the fate of the majority businesses doing business under the program is doomed. I urge the continuance of the program without haste.

Sincerely,

WAYNE R. FRAZIER, Sr.,
President.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 3, the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users. This important measure represents months of hard work and coalition building.

I thank Chairman YOUNG, Ranking Member OBERSTAR, and Representatives PETRI and DEFAZIO for their tremendous leadership during this time. I am proud to be a member of a committee that shows true bipartisanship and respect for one another.

As a member who represents one of the largest districts in the country, I see the immense needs across rural America. It was for this reason that I came to Congress—I want to make a difference for communities like mine, communities that don't always have a voice at the table. I intend to fight hard to make sure that rural Colorado gets its fair share of Federal funding.

I worked closely with my fellow Committee Members to craft a bill that truly represents the needs of all America. I urge my colleagues to vote for TEA-LU so we can finally put a bill on the President's desk for signature. By passing a transportation bill, localities can move forward with plans to build new roads, reinforce bridges, and invest in research and development to promote safer and cleaner technology.

Investment is the key word here—it is what this bill is all about. Infrastructure investment is the key to the free flow of trade. It is the key to connecting communities and promoting economic growth. And it is the key to stimulating jobs and industry development across the country.

This transportation report is a victory for rural Colorado. At a time when budgets are being slashed across the board, the communities in the Third Congressional District can expect a record number of federal dollars for our local highways.

The Transportation Reauthorization Conference report includes earmarks for important projects across the 3rd District of Colorado: \$12 million for US-160, East of Wolf Creek Pass, \$3.2 million for Dillon Drive Overpass, \$6 million for US-50 State Line from Kansas to Pueblo, \$5.2 million for the Glenwood Springs South Bridge, and \$6 million for US-550 west side of Montrose.

By investing in our infrastructure now, we avoid problems down the line by reducing congestion and pollution, and improving safety on the roads. This funding will be a huge boost to economic development for the entire region. Nothing will make me happier than the President signing these rural development funds into law.

I am also pleased that the bill contains over \$4.3 million in funding for bus and bus facilities across the third district. You don't always associate public transportation with rural areas but it is just as important in our communities as it is to larger urban areas. From Steamboat Springs to Crested Butte to Telluride, we are investing in the larger transportation system of a growing region.

Mr. Speaker, I once again would like to thank the Transportation and Infrastructure

Committee leadership and their staffs for their hard work on the bill we have before us today. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of TEA-LU. We have forced communities and state and local governments to wait too long for critical resources.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the conference report for H.R. 3, the Transportation Reauthorization.

The sad fact is that American transportation infrastructure is not keeping pace with population growth, traffic, the increase in the movement of goods, and the basic need to have better freeways that connect us as a Nation.

Our freeways and transit systems have been key components of American society. They enable us to exercise our fundamental freedom to travel, explore and move cross-country with ease.

Just as important, our freeways allow for the movement of goods and interstate commerce. That is why this bill is such an important federal priority, and why we should have funded it more generously.

We know that the United States of America is the single largest exporter and the single largest importer on the face of the earth. We have an \$11 trillion economy.

The region I represent in California, called the Inland Empire, is growing by leaps and bounds. The Inland Empire is among the few remaining areas with affordable housing within driving distance of Los Angeles.

The Cities of Fontana, Ontario, Rialto, Colton, and San Bernardino stand to nearly double their populations by the end of the decade. The Inland Empire will grow by another 1.6 million people by 2020, bringing the population to 4.8 million.

The growth in my district outpaces that of 45 States. This growth requires a significant investment in transportation infrastructure to allow our residents to commute safely through our roads, rail and highways.

My region also has a constant flow of traffic and rail to and from the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, two of the busiest ports in the entire world.

Trucks from all over the nation travel Interstates 10, 15 and 215 to deliver their goods to port or to a warehouse.

Because of the high volume of movement in my region I understand the challenges we face in improving our roads and freeways to make them safer, cleaner and less congested.

This conference report includes funding for important grade separations that are badly needed in my district so we can improve the safety of rail traffic and rail crossings. Also, this conference report invests in freeway interchanges and overpasses in the fast-growing region I represent.

I am also glad that this bill contains funds to do the final upgrades to the Santa Fe Depot.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation has waited long enough for these overdue infrastructure investments. I urge my colleagues to support the conference agreement.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, one of the last items negotiated between House and Senate in this Conference Report were pending requests for exemptions from hours-of-service regulations for truck drivers in various industries. I personally believe that safety and economic realities require that there be greater flexibility in the rigid rules and regulations governing hours of service and I was disappointed that many of these exemptions did not receive more positive consideration.

One exemption that I supported, but was ultimately not accepted, would provide emergency flexibility that permits the re-rail industry to quickly respond to the true emergency needs that arise from railroad derailments and accidents. The failure to provide an emergency exemption for the Rerail Industry will result in a continuing denigration of our ability to protect the lives of citizens living along rights of way, assure highway safety and expedite interstate commerce by quickly clearing train derailments.

Today these emergency responders of the rail mode are often given the Hobson's choice of rapidly clearing wrecks that endanger lives and property and can cost millions of dollars in stacked up traffic or being penalized for violating hours of service. This is neither fair nor is it in the public interest. One of the best examples is the Weyauwega, Wisconsin derailment that took place in my own Congressional District. In this case a derailment overturned 15 cars of hazardous material and ruptured three cars of LPG and propane which ignited and threw fireballs 300 feet into the air. The derailed train was blocking a grade crossing and emergency responders could not reach a flaming feed mill and storage building. The resulting fire continued to burn and the entire town was evacuated for over 2 weeks.

According to the current rules, driver-operators may not legally be allowed to respond immediately to such an accident. But this is exactly the choice that must be made over and over again by the men and women who work in this industry. The situation these companies and their drivers are placed in is neither fair nor is it in the public interest. The issue here is balancing of hours of service flexibility against the terrible consequences of not responding quickly.

The exemption I sought was to provide rerailed drivers with exactly the same treatment currently provided tow truck drivers under existing regulation during a declared emergency. As we learned in Weyauwega, consequences of a train derailment can be far more severe than your average highway accident and should be treated accordingly. I intend to continue to work with both the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Congress to provide those who respond to and rail wrecks with exactly the same treatment as tow truck operators.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3, the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users. Specifically, I want to speak to the inclusion of the important vehicle safety provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

We are a country of drivers, and unfortunately when you have 204 million vehicles on the road, there will be accidents. In fact, it is a sobering statistic that over 42,000 people died in auto accidents in 2003. It's a number that staggers the imagination.

The good news is that every year more people buckle their seatbelts. And although more cars hit the road every year, and they come in all shapes and sizes, the accident rate continues to decline. Despite the advances, does anybody doubt that the cars we drive can be even safer? I don't.

Vehicle safety laws and regulations fall under the jurisdiction of the Committee I chair—the Committee on Energy and Commerce. We were happy to work with Chairman YOUNG and the Senate to include these provi-

sions and reauthorize the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA, in H.R. 3.

By passing this bill, we are ensuring that NHTSA will create rules to mitigate the chances of vehicle rollover, occupant ejection, door locks, roof strength, and side impact. This bill also gives new car buyers more helpful safety information at the point of sale by requiring that ratings for front, side, and rollover crashes be posted on new vehicle stickers. Additionally, NHTSA will be tasked with studying such important problems as tire aging, vehicle backover technologies, and data collection.

I believe these provisions will result in safer cars and trucks, and fewer deaths on our Nation's roads. I urge my colleagues to support passage of the H.R. 3 conference report.

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Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation, a unanimous vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 412, nays 8, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 453]

YEAS—412

Abercrombie	Brown (OH)	Cunningham	Fortenberry	Lewis (KY)	Reyes
Ackerman	Brown (SC)	Davis (AL)	Fossella	Linder	Reynolds
Aderholt	Brown, Corrine	Davis (CA)	Fox	Lipinski	Rogers (AL)
Akin	Brown-Waite,	Davis (FL)	Frank (MA)	LoBiondo	Rogers (KY)
Alexander	Ginny	Davis (IL)	Franks (AZ)	Lofgren, Zoe	Rogers (MI)
Allen	Burgess	Davis (KY)	Frelinghuysen	Lowey	Rohrabacher
Andrews	Burton (IN)	Davis (TN)	Gallegly	Lucas	Ros-Lehtinen
Baca	Butterfield	Davis, Jo Ann	Garrett (NJ)	Lungren, Daniel	Ross
Bachus	Buyer	Davis, Tom	Gerlach	E.	Rothman
Baird	Calvert	Deal (GA)	Gibbons	Lynch	Royal-Allard
Baker	Camp	DeFazio	Gilchrest	Mack	Ruppersberger
Baldwin	Cannon	DeGette	Gillmor	Maloney	Rush
Barrett (SC)	Cantor	DeLauro	Gingrey	Manzullo	Ryan (OH)
Barrow	Capito	DeLay	Gohmert	Marchant	Ryan (WI)
Bartlett (MD)	Capuano	Dent	Gonzalez	Markey	Ryun (KS)
Barton (TX)	Cardin	Diaz-Balart, L.	Goode	Marshall	Sabo
Bass	Cardoza	Diaz-Balart, M.	Goodlatte	Matheson	Salazar
Bean	Carnahan	Dicks	Gordon	Matsui	Sanchez, Linda
Beauprez	Carson	Dingell	Granger	McCarthy	T.
Becerra	Carter	Doggett	Graves	McCaul (TX)	Sanchez, Loretta
Berkley	Case	Doolittle	Green (WI)	McCollum (MN)	Sanders
Berman	Castle	Doyle	Green, Al	McCotter	Saxton
Berry	Chabot	Drake	Green, Gene	McCrery	Schiff
Biggert	Chandler	Dreier	Grijalva	McDermott	Schwartz (PA)
Bilirakis	Chocola	Duncan	Gutierrez	McGovern	Scott (GA)
Bishop (GA)	Clay	Edwards	Gutknecht	McHenry	Scott (VA)
Bishop (NY)	Cleaver	Ehlers	Hall	McHugh	Serrano
Bishop (UT)	Clyburn	Emanuel	Harman	McIntyre	Sessions
Blackburn	Coble	Emerson	Harris	McKeon	Shaw
Blumenauer	Cole (OK)	Engel	Hart	McKinney	Shays
Blunt	Conaway	English (PA)	Hastert	McMorris	Sherman
Boehkert	Conyers	Eshoo	Hastings (FL)	McNulty	Sherwood
Bonilla	Cooper	Etheridge	Hastings (WA)	Meehan	Shimkus
Bonner	Cooper	Emanuel	Hayes	Meek (FL)	Shuster
Bono	Costa	Everett	Hayworth	Meeks (NY)	Simmons
Boozman	Costello	Farr	Hefley	Melancon	Simpson
Boren	Cox	Feeney	Herger	Menendez	Skelton
Boswell	Cramer	Ferguson	Herseth	Michaud	Slaughter
Boucher	Crenshaw	Filer	Higgins	Millender	Smith (NJ)
Boustany	Crowley	Fitzpatrick (PA)	Hinchev	McDonald	Smith (TX)
Boyd	Cubin	Foley	Hinojosa	Miller (FL)	Smith (WA)
Bradley (NH)	Cuellar	Forbes	Hobson	Miller (MI)	Smith (VA)
Brady (TX)	Culberson	Ford	Hoekstra	Miller (NC)	Snyder
	Cummings		Holden	Miller, Gary	Sodrel
			Holt	Mollohan	Solis
			Honda	Moore (KS)	Souder
			Hooley	Moore (WI)	Spratt
			Hostettler	Moran (KS)	Stearns
			Hoyer	Moran (VA)	Strickland
			Hulshof	Murphy	Stupak
			Hunter	Murtha	Sullivan
			Hyde	Musgrave	Sweeney
			Inglis (SC)	Myrick	Tancredo
			Inslee	Nadler	Tanner
			Israel	Napolitano	Tauscher
			Issa	Neal (MA)	Taylor (MS)
			Istook	Neugebauer	Taylor (NC)
			Jackson (IL)	Ney	Terry
			Jackson-Lee	Northup	Thomas
			(TX)	Norwood	Thompson (CA)
			Jefferson	Nunes	Thompson (MS)
			Jenkins	Nussle	Tiahrt
			Jindal	Oberstar	Tiberi
			Johnson (CT)	Obey	Tierney
			Johnson (IL)	Oliver	Towns
			Johnson, E. B.	Ortiz	Turner
			Jones (OH)	Osborne	Udall (CO)
			Kanjorski	Otter	Udall (NM)
			Kaptur	Owens	Upton
			Keller	Oxley	Van Hollen
			Kelly	Pallone	Velázquez
			Kennedy (MN)	Pascrell	Visclosky
			Kennedy (RI)	Pastor	Walden (OR)
			Kildee	Payne	Walsh
			Kilpatrick (MI)	Pearce	Wamp
			Kind	Pelosi	Wasserman
			King (IA)	Pence	Schultz
			King (NY)	Peterson (MN)	Waters
			Kingston	Peterson (PA)	Watson
			Kirk	Pickering	Watt
			Kline	Platts	Waxman
			Knollenberg	Poe	Weiner
			Kolbe	Pomeroy	Weldon (FL)
			Kucinich	Porter	Weldon (PA)
			Kuhl (NY)	Price (GA)	Weller
			LaHood	Price (NC)	Westmoreland
			Langevin	Pryce (OH)	Whitfield
			Lantos	Putnam	Wicker
			Larsen (WA)	Radanovich	Wilson (NM)
			Larson (CT)	Rahall	Wilson (SC)
			Latham	Ramstad	Wolf
			LaTourette	Rangel	Woolsey
			Leach	Regula	Wu
			Lee	Rehberg	Wynn
			Levin	Reichert	Young (AK)
			Lewis (CA)	Renzi	Young (FL)
			Lewis (GA)		

NAYS—8

Boehner	Jones (NC)	Shadegg
Flake	Royce	Thornberry
Hensarling	Sensenbrenner	

NOT VOTING—14

Brady (PA)	Mica	Schakowsky
Capps	Miller, George	Schwarz (MI)
Delahunt	Paul	Stark
Fattah	Pitts	Wexler
Johnson, Sam	Pombo	

□ 1138

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, on July 29, 2005 I missed one recorded vote. I take my responsibility to vote very seriously. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 3, the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall vote and would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 453—"yea."

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained because of medical reasons and was unable to vote on rollcall 453. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on this measure.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 226. Concurrent resolution providing for a correction to the enrollment of H.R. 3.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2005

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, September 7, 2005.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. WAYNE T. GILCHREST, HON. FRANK R. WOLF, AND HON. TOM DAVIS TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE, TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 6, 2005

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication:

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 29, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable WAYNE T. GILCHREST, the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF, and the Honorable TOM DAVIS to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through September 6, 2005.

DENNIS J. HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

PUBLICATION OF RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE 109TH CONGRESS

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to submit for publication the attached copy of the Rules of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for the House of Representatives for the 109th Congress.

The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct adopted these rules pursuant to House rule XI, clause (2)(a)(1) on May 4, 2005.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

RULES, COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT, ADOPTED MAY 4, 2005, 109TH CONGRESS

FOREWORD

The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is unique in the House of Representatives. Consistent with the duty to carry out its advisory and enforcement responsibilities in an impartial manner, the Committee is the only standing committee of the House of Representatives the membership of which is divided evenly by party. These rules are intended to provide a fair procedural framework for the conduct of the Committee's activities and to help insure that the Committee serves well the people of the United States, the House of Representatives, and the Members, officers, and employees of the House of Representatives.

PART I—GENERAL COMMITTEE RULES

RULE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) So far as applicable, these rules and the Rules of the House of Representatives shall be the rules of the Committee and any subcommittee. The Committee adopts these rules under the authority of clause 2(a)(1) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, 109th Congress.

(b) The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended, or repealed by a vote of a majority of the Committee.

(c) When the interests of justice so require, the Committee, by a majority vote of its members, may adopt any special procedures, not inconsistent with these rules, deemed necessary to resolve a particular matter before it. Copies of such special procedures shall be furnished to all parties in the matter.

(d) The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member shall have access to such information that they request as necessary to conduct Committee business.

RULE 2. DEFINITIONS

(a) "Committee" means the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

(b) "Complaint" means a written allegation of improper conduct against a Member,

officer, or employee of the House of Representatives filed with the Committee with the intent to initiate an inquiry.

(c) "Inquiry" means an investigation by an investigative subcommittee into allegations against a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives.

(d) "Investigative Subcommittee" means a subcommittee designated pursuant to Rule 19(a) to conduct an inquiry to determine if a Statement of Alleged Violation should be issued.

(e) "Statement of Alleged Violation" means a formal charging document filed by an investigative subcommittee with the Committee containing specific allegations against a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives of a violation of the Code of Official Conduct, or of a law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the performance of official duties or the discharge of official responsibilities.

(f) "Adjudicatory Subcommittee" means a subcommittee designated pursuant to Rule 23(a), that holds an adjudicatory hearing and determines whether the counts in a Statement of Alleged Violation are proved by clear and convincing evidence.

(g) "Sanction Hearing" means a Committee hearing to determine what sanction, if any, to adopt or to recommend to the House of Representatives.

(h) "Respondent" means a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives who is the subject of a complaint filed with the Committee or who is the subject of an inquiry or a Statement of Alleged Violation.

(i) "Office of Advice and Education" refers to the Office established by section 803(i) of the Ethics Reform Act of 1989. The Office handles inquiries; prepares written opinions in response to specific requests; develops general guidance; and organizes seminars, workshops, and briefings for the benefit of the House of Representatives.

(j) "Member" means a Representative in, or a Delegate to, or the Resident Commissioner to, the U.S. House of Representatives.

RULE 3. ADVISORY OPINIONS AND WAIVERS

(a) The Office of Advice and Education shall handle inquiries; prepare written opinions providing specific advice; develop general guidance; and organize seminars, workshops, and briefings for the benefit of the House of Representatives.

(b) Any Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives, may request a written opinion with respect to the propriety of any current or proposed conduct of such Member, officer, or employee.

(c) The Office of Advice and Education may provide information and guidance regarding laws, rules, regulations, and other standards of conduct applicable to Members, officers, and employees in the performance of their duties or the discharge of their responsibilities.

(d) In general, the Committee shall provide a written opinion to an individual only in response to a written request, and the written opinion shall address the conduct only of the inquiring individual, or of persons for whom the inquiring individual is responsible as employing authority.

(e) A written request for an opinion shall be addressed to the Chairman of the Committee and shall include a complete and accurate statement of the relevant facts. A request shall be signed by the requester or the