

TRANSPORTATION WEEKLY
UPDATE – HOUSE COMMITTEE APPROVES TRANSPORTATION
APPROPRIATIONS BILL
FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2009 – 2:55 P.M.

Earlier today, the House Appropriations Committee approved, by voice vote, a draft bill making available a total of \$76.6 billion in budgetary resources for the U.S. Department of Transportation for fiscal year 2010.

Debate in committee on the transportation provisions of the bill was largely uneventful, with debate focusing on the pending insolvency of the Highway Trust Fund. An amendment to lower the bill's appropriation for high-speed rail from \$4 billion to \$1 billion and to transfer that money to the Highway Trust Fund was rejected by a 22-37 vote.

The bill is expected to be debated on the House floor next Thursday and Friday (July 23 and 24). The House Rules Committee hopes to post the text of the bill, as reported by the Appropriations Committee, on its website by the close of business today or else early Monday morning.

Next week's issue of *Transportation Weekly* will have full coverage of the bill. A list of amendments offered to the Transportation- HUD appropriations bill in the Appropriations Committee follows.

*An Olver (D-MA) manager's amendment making two technical changes in the transit portion of the DOT title and making numerous changes to report language – agreed to by voice vote.

*A Latham (R-IA) amendment striking the bill's \$798 million for the HUD reverse mortgage program and replacing it with changes

in the program designed to save \$798 million – agreed to by voice vote, as amended by an Olver (D-MA) second-degree amendment directing that the \$798 million in savings go to Section 8 low-income housing (also agreed to by voice vote).

*Wolf (R-VA) amendment prohibiting funds from being used to enforce 23 U.S.C. 111(a), intended to force Virginia to keep its Interstate rest areas open – failed by roll call vote of 26 yeas, 32 nays.

*Culberson (R-TX) amendment preventing any funds appropriated by the Act from coming from TARP repayments – failed by roll call vote of 23 yeas, 36 nays.

*Tiahrt (R-KS) amendment to take back education funding given to states under the stimulus act – failed by voice vote.

*Latham(R-IA) amendment to reduce the bill's appropriation for high-speed rail from \$4 billion to \$1 billion (the level of the President's request) and transfer that \$3 billion in savings to the Highway Trust Fund – failed by roll call vote of 22 yeas, 37 nays.

*Crenshaw (R-FL) amendment requiring that projects under the \$4 billion in high-speed rail money be competitively bid – agreed to by voice vote.

*Lewis (R-CA) amendment to repeal clause 3 of rule XXI of the House of Representatives, which guarantees minimum obligation levels for Highway Trust Fund programs – failed by voice vote.

*LaTourette (R-OH) amendment to require that the \$2 billion in high-speed rail money that is eligible for transfer to a future

National Infrastructure Bank be available for obligation for HSR in
FY 2010 – withdrawn.