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**REGIONAL WHIP**



*Congress of the United States*  
*House of Representatives*  
Washington, DC 20515-1317

EDUCATION AND LABOR  
COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH,  
EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE  
PROTECTIONS

TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

April 9, 2009

Dear Friend:

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is crafting a new surface transportation authorization to replace the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), which expires on September 30, 2009. I sit on the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, which has principal responsibility for drafting the new legislation.

This legislation is a six-year bill that authorizes our nation's surface transportation programs. The majority of the Federal funds in the bill will be allocated by formula with the state departments of transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and local transit agencies determining which projects will be funded. Although the current Federal-state-local partnership has served highway and transit systems well, not all communities are treated equally in the decision making process.

To compliment the work done by these agencies, and to ensure communities are full partners in these important programs, a small percentage of the overall investment of the authorization bill will be available for Member-designated High Priority Projects. **To ensure the transportation needs of Illinois' 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District are addressed with the investment provided in the authorization legislation, my office is accepting requests for High Priority Projects (HPPs).**

I caution that it is not certain whether or not HPPs will be included in the final bill as there are many unknown factors as to what funding level we may be able to provide for the overall bill. We are currently faced with a very low budget number for surface transportation programs and while the Committee is planning to include Member-designated HPPs in the final authorization legislation, that could very well change if we cannot find ways to generate sufficient revenue to invest in our country's critical surface transportation infrastructure needs.

**Please understand that resources are limited and I may be unable to secure a comparable level of funding for HPPs as other members did in SAFETEA-LU. Additionally, the needs of our communities in Illinois far outstrip what funding might be available for projects in the bill. With this in mind, please understand that I will be unable to ask for funding for all project requests made of my office. Because resources are so limited, if you request more than one High Priority Project you must rank them in priority order.**

**PLEASE REPLY TO:**

2001 52ND AVENUE, #5  
MOLINE, IL 61265  
(309) 793-5760

261 NORTH BROAD, #5  
GALESBURG, IL 61401  
(309) 342-4411

236 NORTH WATER STREET, #765  
DECATUR, IL 62523  
(217) 422-9150

210 NORTH BROAD  
CARLINVILLE, IL 62626  
(217) 854-2290

**DISTRICT TOLL FREE: 800-322-6210**

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**The deadline for High Priority Project requests to my congressional office is *absolutely no later than Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>*.** Please fill out the attached project request form and e-mail it – along with at least one letter of support for the project from the Illinois Department of Transportation or affected local government or governmental agency – to Chris Austin of my staff at [chris.austin@mail.house.gov](mailto:chris.austin@mail.house.gov) by April 24<sup>th</sup>.

I will only consider submitting HPP requests that are entirely completed, supported by the aforementioned letter, and sent to my office via email. Requests made via postal service, fax, and hand-delivery will not be accepted. Please note, as required by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, all HPP requests that I submit to the Committee must be made public on my congressional website. Furthermore, the Committee will afford the U.S. Department of Transportation at least 20 days to review all HPP requests to ensure that the projects meet program eligibility criteria. If an HPP is included in the final text of the bill, it will also be posted on the Committee website. If you have questions please contact Chris Austin in my Washington, DC office at (202) 225-5905 or Andy Rowe in my Moline office at (309) 793-5760.

Sincerely,



PHIL HARE  
Member of Congress