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**SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVES FY2018 TRANSPORTATION, HUD
APPROPRIATIONS BILL**

*Bill Promotes Investments & Flexibility for Safer Transportation Network,
Preserves Housing Assistance for Most Vulnerable Families*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Senate Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Appropriations Subcommittee today approved its FY2018 appropriations bill with funding to advance transportation infrastructure development, housing assistance, and community development.

The FY2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations Act provides \$60.058 billion in discretionary spending for the U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies. The bill is \$2.407 billion above FY2017 enacted levels.

The subcommittee recommendation targets funding toward enhancing the world’s safest aviation system, investing in transportation infrastructure, and maintaining rental assistance and community development programs. The measure will be considered by the full Senate Appropriations Committee on Thursday (<http://bit.ly/2gXiaUJ>).

“This bipartisan bill is the product of considerable negotiation and compromise, and makes the necessary investments in our nation’s infrastructure, helps to meet the housing needs of the most vulnerable among us, and provides funding for economic development projects that create jobs in our communities,” said **U.S. Senator Susan Collins (R-Maine)**, chairman of the Senate Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee.

“Our bill strikes the right balance between thoughtful investment and fiscal restraint, thereby setting the stage for future economic growth,” **Collins** added.

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Bill Highlights:

The bill prioritizes funding for critical transportation projects, programs to encourage economic growth and efficiency, and on core housing programs for the nation's most vulnerable individuals.

Transportation – \$19.47 billion in discretionary appropriations for the U.S. Department of Transportation for fiscal year 2018. This is \$978 million above the FY2017 enacted level. Within this amount, priority is placed on programs to improve the safety, reliability, and efficiency of the transportation system.

- **TIGER Grants** – \$550 million, \$50 million above the FY2017 enacted level, for TIGER grants (also known as National Infrastructure Investments).
- **Highways** – \$45 billion from the Highway Trust Fund to be spent on the Federal-aid Highways Program, consistent with the FAST Act. The bill also continues to allow State Departments of Transportation to repurpose old, unused earmarks for important infrastructure projects.
- **Aviation** – \$16.97 billion in total budgetary resources for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), \$563 million above the FY2017 enacted level. This will provide full funding for all air traffic control personnel, including more than 14,000 air traffic controllers, and more than 25,000 engineers, maintenance technicians, safety inspectors, and operational support personnel.

The bill also provides \$1.1 billion for the FAA Next Generation Air Transportation Systems (NextGen), and fully funds the Contract Towers program to help ease future congestion and help reduce delays for travelers in U.S. airspace. In addition, the bill rejects the proposed privatization of the air traffic control system and provides greater flexibilities for airports to make much-needed capacity improvements.

- **Rail** – \$1.974 billion for the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), \$122 million above the FY2017 enacted level. This includes \$1.6 billion for Amtrak for the Northeast Corridor and National Network, continuing service for all current routes. The bill also provides \$250.1 million for FRA safety and operations, as well as research and development activities.

The bill also provides \$92.5 million for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement grants program, of which \$35.5 million is for initiation or restoration of passenger rail, \$26 million for Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair grants, and \$5 million for Restoration and Enhancement grants.

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- **Transit** – \$12.129 billion for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), \$285 million below the FY2017 enacted level. Transit formula grants total \$9.733 billion, consistent with the FAST Act. The bill provides a total of \$2.133 billion for Capital Investment Grants (“New Starts”), fully funding all current “Full Funding Grant Agreement” (FFGA) transit projects, which is \$280 million below the FY2017 enacted level.
- **Maritime** – \$577.6 million for the Maritime Administration, \$55 million above the FY2017 enacted level, to increase the productivity, efficiency and safety of the nation’s ports and intermodal water and land transportation. The Maritime Security Program is funded at \$300 million.

The bill includes \$32 million for State Maritime Academies (SMAs), and an additional \$50 million for the National Security Multi-Mission Vessel. This training ship is essential for the SMAs to continue to provide the nation with a strong merchant marine workforce.

- **Safety** – The legislation contains funding for the various transportation safety programs and agencies within the U.S. Department of Transportation. This includes \$908.6 million in total budgetary resources for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and \$744.8 million for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Of this amount, \$68 million is to complete the modernization of border facilities to improve inspections along the Southern border. The bill also includes \$272 million for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to help address safety concerns related to recent pipeline and crude oil by rail accidents.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) – \$40.244 billion in discretionary appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, an increase of \$1.4 billion above the FY2017 enacted level.

- **Rental Assistance** – HUD rental assistance programs provide housing assistance for nearly 5 million vulnerable families and individuals. Of those receiving assistance, 57 percent are elderly or disabled. This bill provides necessary increases to continue assistance to all families and individuals currently served by these programs.

Included in the bill is: \$21.365 billion for tenant-based Section 8 vouchers, \$1.07 billion above the FY2017 enacted level; \$6.45 billion for public housing, \$103.5 million above the FY2017 enacted level; \$11.5 billion for project-based Section 8, \$691 million above the FY2017 enacted level; \$573 million for Housing for the Elderly, \$70.6 million above the FY2017 enacted level, and \$147 million for Housing for Persons with Disabilities, nearly \$1.0 million above the FY2017 enacted level.

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- **Community Planning and Development** – \$6.85 billion for Community Planning and Development programs, \$47 million above the FY2017 enacted level. The Community Development Block Grant formula program is funded at \$3 billion; the Homeless Assistance Grants are funded at \$2.456 billion; the HOME program is funded at \$950 million; the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program is funded at \$330 million.
- **Emphasis on Homelessness** – \$2.456 billion for homeless assistance programs and includes several provisions to improve HUD’s delivery of housing and services to address particularly vulnerable populations, including veterans, youth, and survivors of domestic violence. The bill includes \$20 million for new family unification vouchers to prevent youth exiting foster care from becoming homeless. An additional \$55 million is provided for grants and technical assistance to test comprehensive efforts to end youth homelessness in urban and rural areas. In addition the bill provides \$25 million for rapid rehousing assistance for domestic violence, and \$40 million for new HUD-VASH vouchers.
- **Preventing Lead Hazards** – \$160 million to combat lead hazards, \$15 million above the FY2017 enacted level. These grants will help communities protect children from the harmful effects of lead hazard poisoning.

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