

February 1, 2012

## House of Representatives' Surface Transportation Bill Unveiled "The American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act"

Representative John Mica (R-FL), Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee unveiled his version of a surface transportation reauthorization bill at a press conference yesterday afternoon. Representative Mica, accompanied by fellow Republican members of the House T&I Committee, outlined various provisions of his bill, [The American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act](#) (H.R. 7), legislation that would allocate roughly \$260 billion over the next five years. Mr. Mica stated that at least a part of the bill would be paid-for using royalties obtained via oil and gas drilling revenues. The bill does not contain earmarks and would eliminate or consolidate some 70 separate federal programs.

Supporters indicate the bill would give more authority to states to decide where their transportation priorities lie, and give states the ability to spend money with fewer federal strings attached. The bill is also meant to speed-up the project approval process, and to encourage more public-private partnerships on project funding. The bill "builds upon and improves" the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan program, by specifically dedicating \$1 billion annually to TIFIA "resulting in \$10 billion in low interest loans to fund at least \$20 billion per year in transportation projects."

In the Senate, the Environment and Public Works Committee unanimously passed its surface transportation bill in November. That bill, S. 1813, the [Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act](#) (MAP-21) would provide funding over two years for America's highway, bridge, and other transportation programs at their current funding levels. The full Senate has yet to take-up MAP-21. The Senate Banking Committee is scheduled to mark-up the [transit portion](#) of their surface transportation bill on Thursday (2/2).

The House Natural Resources Committee holds a mark-up of the energy drilling component ([H.R. 3410](#)) of the transportation package today, February 1<sup>st</sup>. The House T&I Committee has scheduled a mark-up of Mr. Mica's legislation for the morning of Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

America's surface transportation programs are currently operating under a temporary extension that expires at the end of March.

*To view a summary of the House Transportation measure, please click on the following link:*

[The American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act- Summary](#)

*To view a copy of the bill text, please click on the following link:*

[The American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act – Bill Language](#)

*To view a copy of the Senate Banking Committee's summary of the Senate transit title, please click on the following link:*

[Senate Banking Committee – Transit Title](#)

