

The Federal Flyer

House Committee Adopts FY 2003 Transportation Spending Bill Includes Project Earmarks for Texas, Holds Highway Funding Down

As reported in the last issue of the *Federal Flyer*, the House Committee on Appropriations began work on the \$60 billion FY 2003 appropriations act for the U.S. Department of Transportation and Related Agencies on September 26th and wrapped it up on October 1st.

No Increase in Highway Funding in House Committee Bill. As predicted last week, the House Appropriations Committee bill would provide only \$27.7 billion in obligation authority for the federal-aid highway program in FY 2003. This amount is equal to the authorized level set in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21) for the year and would represent a \$4.4 billion increase above President Bush's \$23.3 billion budget request. The budget request reflects a reduction of some \$8.6 billion below the \$31.8 billion enacted for FY 2002. The Senate Appropriations Committee in July adopted a bill that would restore the highway funding level to the \$31.8 billion provided in FY 2002.

At the House committee markup, **Congressman Chet Edwards** (D - Texas) offered an amendment to increase the highway amount to the Senate level; however, the committee voted 26-29 (along party lines) to fund the program at \$27.7 billion. Despite the amendment's defeat in committee, lawmakers gave indications last week that many of them, including committee Republicans, believed that the Congress would provide a higher funding level for highways when the FY 2003 transportation spending provisions are finally enacted. This could come in an omnibus appropriations bill, but the prospects for that measure at this time remain unknown.

Texas Projects Slated for Funding. The House committee bill, like its Senate counterpart, contains earmarks in the various highway, aviation, and transit discretionary programs. Unlike the Senate committee, however, the

House committee funded these programs at the TEA 21 and AIR 21 authorized levels. As a result, approximately \$577 million is provided for highway discretionary programs and \$1.821 billion is provided for transit new starts and bus grants, all of which are earmarked for specific projects. In contrast, the Senate bill would provide \$738 million for highway discretionary programs and \$1.921 billion for transit new starts and bus grants. The table on the following pages lists Texas project earmarks in both bills.

The next step is undetermined at this point. Congress hopes to recess for the November election no later than October 18th. However, federal programs are now operating under a second continuing resolution, set to expire on October 11th. At least one more CR will have to be enacted, but the extent of its coverage is still being debated. Stay tuned.

In This Issue

- House Committee Adopts FY 2003 Transportation Spending Bill
- Texas Appropriations Earmarks Table
- Young Introduces ExPDITE Bill on Project Delivery
- AASHTO Releases Bottom Line Report

Aviation Discretionary Program Earmarks			
Project Description	Program	Senate	House
Addison Field	Terminal Air Traffic Control Facilities		\$5,700,000
Corpus Christi	Terminal Air Traffic Control Facilities	\$700,000	\$700,000
Beaumont	Terminal Air Traffic Control Facilities	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
West Houston Airport	Automated surface observing system (ASOS)		\$150,000
Robert Gray AFB	Instrument Landing System		\$2,000,000
Abilene Airport - Various Improvements	Airport Discretionary Grants	Recommended	Recommended
Denton Municipal Airport - Improvements	Airport Discretionary Grants	Recommended	Recommended
Easterwood Airport - Texas A&M University	Airport Discretionary Grants	Recommended	
Houston Municipal Airport	Airport Discretionary Grants	Recommended	
McKinney Municipal Airport	Airport Discretionary Grants	Recommended	Recommended
Arlington Municipal Airport	Airport Discretionary Grants		Recommended
Del Rio International Airport	Airport Discretionary Grants		Recommended
Draughton-Miller Regional Airport	Airport Discretionary Grants		Recommended
Fort Worth Alliance Airport	Airport Discretionary Grants		Recommended
Gainesville Municipal Airport	Airport Discretionary Grants		Recommended
Robert Gray Army Airfiled - Kileen Airport	Airport Discretionary Grants		Recommended
San Antonio International Airport	Airport Discretionary Grants		Recommended
Valley International Airport	Airport Discretionary Grants		Recommended
Highway Discretionary Program Earmarks			
Highway Program Discretionary Earmarks	Total Nationwide	\$737,740,000	\$576,880,000
I-30/I-35 Dallas, Construction of Bridges for Trinity River	Interstate Maintenance Discretionary	\$6,000,000	
I-35 East / I-635 Interchange	Interstate Maintenance Discretionary		\$750,000
IH 35 perpetual pavement testing, LaSalle County	Interstate Maintenance Discretionary		\$1,000,000
IH 35 frontage road & ramp system improvements, Huntsville	Interstate Maintenance Discretionary		\$1,000,000
IH 30 in Texarkana from FM 989 in Bowie County to the AR state line (US 71)	Interstate Maintenance Discretionary		\$1,000,000
Rehabilitation of IH 20 in Erath, Palo Pinto, and Parker counties	Interstate Maintenance Discretionary		\$2,350,000

Continued on Page 3

Highway Discretionary Program Earmarks (Continued)			
Project Description	Program	Senate	House
City of Austin	ITS Deployment		\$500,000
Hunt County	ITS Deployment		\$1,000,000
ADART phase IV implementation, Corpus Christi	ITS Deployment		\$500,000
Round Rock/ Williamson County Communications Integration	ITS Deployment		\$500,000
TTI's Monitoring & Emergency Notification for the Texas Medical Center campus	ITS Deployment		\$350,000
City of El Paso, Ysleta POE dedicated commuter lane	Bridge Discretionary		\$500,000
I-30 replacement bridge, Dallas	Bridge Discretionary		\$2,000,000
SH 6 at Waco, South Bosque River Bridge, McLennan County	Bridge Discretionary		\$4,500,000
Improved access to Dyess AFB	Federal Lands		\$1,000,000
Tank Destroyer Boulevard, Fort Hood	Federal Lands		\$2,000,000
Widening & rehab of FM 2500, Polk County	Federal Lands		\$1,000,000
I-35E Widening, Dallas and Ellis Counties	National Corridor and Border Infrastructure Program (NCBIP)	\$5,000,000	
I-69 Construction	NCBIP	\$5,000,000	\$3,000,000
SR 130 ROW Williamson, Guadalupe, Travis, and Caldwell Counties	NCBIP	\$10,000,000	
Bomber Road, Fort Worth	NCBIP		\$1,000,000
Donna-Rio Bravo International Border Crossing	NCBIP		\$1,000,000
I-35 expansion, Hill County	NCBIP		\$1,500,000
I-59 & FM 2919, Isleib	NCBIP		\$500,000
IH-35 -FM 2484 Amity Road, Shankin Road Overpass, Bell County	NCBIP		\$2,000,000
SH 158 - US 87 to 4.75 west, Sterling County	NCBIP		\$1,000,000
US 87 Relief Route, Lamesa	NCBIP		\$1,000,000
West Laredo Multimodal Trade Corridor	NCBIP		\$2,500,000
Port of Galveston, intermodal improvement program	Ferry Boats & Ferry Terminal Facilities		\$500,000
Corpus Christi Ferry Terminal	Ferry Boats and Ferry Terminal Facilities	\$500,000	
City of Fort Worth corridor redevelopment program	Transportation & Community & System Preservation Pilot Program (TCSP)		\$100,000
Houston Main Street Corridor revitalization project implementation	TCSP		\$100,000
Trinity River Visions	TCSP		\$250,000
Texas Highway Discretionary Earmarks Total		\$26,500,000	\$34,400,000

Continued on Page 4

Transit Program Discretionary Earmarks			
Project Description	Program	Senate	House
Austin Bus	Bus & Bus Facilities Capital Grants	\$8,000,000	
El Paso Bus	Bus & Bus Facilities Capital Grants	\$4,000,000	
Galveston Buses	Bus & Bus Facilities Capital Grants	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000
San Antonio Transit Bus System Modernization	Bus & Bus Facilities Capital Grants	\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000
Abilene buses & bus facilities, Citylink	Bus & Bus Facilities Capital Grants		\$1,400,000
Corpus Christi RTA buses & bus facilities	Bus & Bus Facilities Capital Grants		\$1,000,000
Fort Worth Transportation Authority	Bus & Bus Facilities Capital Grants		\$5,000,000
Houston Advanced Transit Program	Bus & Bus Facilities Capital Grants		\$6,000,000
Laredo, administration, operations, and maintenance facility	Bus & Bus Facilities Capital Grants		\$3,500,000
Odess and Midland, alternatively fueled buses	Bus & Bus Facilities Capital Grants		\$2,000,000
Texas Tech University park-and-ride buses	Bus & Bus Facilities Capital Grants		\$3,750,000
Waco Transit maintenance & administration facility, buses	Bus & Bus Facilities Capital Grants		\$3,866,000
Woodlands District park-and-rides	Bus & Bus Facilities Capital Grants		\$2,400,000
Recommended Bus Projects - Texas Total		\$17,000,000	\$30,916,000
DART's Suburban Areas Extension	New Starts Capital Grants	\$60,000,000	\$70,000,000
Houston Advanced Metro Transit Plan	New Starts Capital Grants	\$25,000,000	
Recommended New Starts Projects - Texas Total		\$85,000,000	\$70,000,000
Abilene (Citylink)	JARC		\$200,000
Austin Capital Metro	JARC	\$3,000,000	\$2,000,000
Corpus Christi	JARC	\$750,000	\$1,700,000
El Paso	JARC	\$500,000	
Galveston	JARC		\$600,000
Lubbock (Citibus)	JARC		\$230,000
San Antonio	JARC	\$925,000	\$1,250,000
Just Transportation Alliance	JARC		\$267,210
Recommended JARC Projects - Texas Total		\$5,175,000	\$6,247,210
Total Texas Transit Earmarks		\$107,175,000	\$107,163,321

Young Introduces ExPDITE Bill on Project Delivery Measure Sets Timelines, Roles, & Responsibilities

On September 25, **U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Don Young** (R - Alaska) introduced H.R. 5455, "Expediting Project Delivery to Improve Transportation and the Environment Act (ExPDITE Act)." The primary purpose of this legislation is to expedite the project delivery process without amending environmental statutes or decreasing public involvement. The goal is to reduce delays in the planning and approval of federally funded highway and transit improvement projects by streamlining the current environmental review process.

According to a summary provided by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), specific provisions include:

- ◆ Explicitly defining the USDOT as the lead agency for highway and transit projects while establishing roles and responsibilities for participating agencies in the environmental review process
- ◆ Providing USDOT with the responsibility for defining the purpose and need of a project along with the range of alternatives to be considered and the level of analysis to be conducted
- ◆ Allowing section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to satisfy section 4(f) of the DOT Act, if certain provisions are met
- ◆ Establishing a mechanism for the Governor of each state to initiate a high-level dispute resolution process and
- ◆ Delegating federal agency responsibility to state DOTs.

The House T&I Committee's Subcommittee on Highways and Transit will hold a hearing on the bill today. We'll report on that hearing in the next issue of the **Federal Flyer**.

AASHTO Releases Bottom Line Report Highway, Transit Needs Exceed \$169 Billion Per Year

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) last week released the report entitled "Transportation: Invest in America - The Bottom Line." The report describes the investment needed to improve the physical condition and performance of the nation's highways, bridges, and mass transit systems. The highway and bridge needs exceed \$125 billion per year over the next 20 years. Average annual funding needed over the next 20 years to improve our transit systems is estimated at more than \$43 billion.

The full report is available online at <http://www.bottomline.transportation.org>.

The **Federal Flyer** is a publication of the TxDOT Legislative Affairs Office. It is intended to provide up-to-date information on major legislative activities in the 107th Congress for the management of the Texas Department of Transportation, state leaders, and others interested in Texas transportation issues. This report will also feature key activities in the national transportation community. Sources include news services and staff reports.

Coby Chase, Director of Legislative Affairs, serves as publisher and can be reached at (512) 463-6086. The department's federal legislative analysts are Joe Guzzo (202-638-3927), Tonia Norman Ramirez (512-463-9957), and David Soileau (512-463-6081). Please contact any of the staff for information on federal transportation and legislative issues. To subscribe to the **Federal Flyer** by e-mail, please send your request to tramirez@dot.state.tx.us.

This publication will be filed with the State Publications Clearinghouse in the State Library in accordance with the Texas State Depository Law.

