



# U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

PRESS RELEASE

## Summary: FY 2011 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations

*Subcommittee Mark*

	<b>Budget Authority Only</b>	<b>Total Resources</b>
<b>FY 2010 Enacted:</b>	<b>\$67.9 billion</b>	<b>\$122.1 billion</b>
<b>FY 2011 Request</b>	<b>\$68.7 billion</b>	<b>\$123.2 billion</b>
<b>Subcommittee Mark</b>	<b>\$67.9 billion</b>	<b>\$122.5 billion</b>

**Washington, DC** - Overall, the fiscal year 2011 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill includes budget authority of \$67.9 billion, unchanged from the fiscal year 2010 enacted level. Total funding, including limitations on obligations related to programs funded by the Highway Trust Fund, is \$122.5 billion. The total funding level is \$0.3 billion or 0.26 percent above the equivalent 2010 enacted level, and \$0.7 billion or about 0.59 percent below the President's Request.

### **The bill helps our communities and transportation system by focusing on five priority areas:**

- Investing in transportation infrastructure;
- Providing housing and services to our Nation's most vulnerable;
- Supporting our communities and addressing the foreclosure crisis;
- Ensuring the safety of our transportation system; and
- Promoting sustainability in our communities.

### *Investing in transportation infrastructure*

**Funding for Significant Transportation Projects:** \$800 million for grants to support significant transportation projects in a wide variety of modes, including highways and bridges, public transportation, passenger and freight railroads, and port infrastructure. The funding requires the Secretary to allocate no less than \$200 million for projects in rural communities.

**Intercity and High Speed Rail Grants:** \$1 billion for investments in intercity and high speed rail grants. This funding will build on the \$10.5 billion already provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and fiscal year 2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

**Highway Investments:** An additional \$613 million in funding above the budget request is provided for the Federal-Aid Highway program.

**Transit Investments:** An additional \$180 million above the President’s budget request for the transit “New Starts” program. This funding supports projects across the Nation that will provide new or expanded public transportation services.

**Airport Investments:** \$3.5 billion for capital investments at airports across the country.

*Providing housing and services to our Nation’s most vulnerable*

**Section 8 Tenant-based rental assistance:** \$19.5 billion for housing choice vouchers. This level of funding is \$1.3 billion above the fiscal year 2010 enacted level and \$55 million below the President’s request. This funding is critical to ensuring that our Nation’s low-income families, especially those hit hard by the recession, can maintain safe, affordable housing. It includes:

- \$17.165 billion for the renewal of current housing choice vouchers;
- \$75 million for 10,000 new HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers for homeless veterans;
- \$85 million for 6,000 vouchers for homeless and at-risk families and 4,000 vouchers for the chronically homeless; and
- \$15 million for new family unification vouchers to assist youth aging out of foster care and families separated because of a lack of housing.

**Public Housing:** \$2.5 billion for the public housing capital fund, an increase of \$467 million above the President’s budget and \$10 million above the fiscal year 2010 enacted level. This funding will help preserve and improve public housing. The bill also includes \$4.8 billion for the public housing operating fund, which is \$54 million more than the fiscal year 2010 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

**Project-based rental assistance:** \$9.4 billion for the project-based section 8 program, including over \$9.1 billion for the renewal of all expiring project-based contracts for a full 12 months. This level of funding is \$830 million above the fiscal year 2010 enacted level and equal to the President’s budget.

**Homeless Assistance grants:** \$2.055 billion for homeless assistance grants. This level of funding is nearly \$200 million above the fiscal year 2010 enacted level and is equal to the President’s request. This funding responds to the needs of the increasing number of homeless families.

**Housing for the Elderly:** \$825 million for housing for our nation’s low-income elderly. This level of funding is the same as the fiscal year 2009 level and more than \$550 million above the President’s budget. The funding will be used to increase the supply of affordable housing for the Nation’s growing elderly population.

**Housing for the Disabled:** \$200 million for housing for our Nation's disabled. This level of funding is \$110 million above the budget request and will provide housing options for the disabled to live independently. In addition, the budget includes \$113,600,000 in mainstream vouchers previously funded in this account that the bill shifts to the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance account, consistent with the request.

**Housing opportunities for persons with AIDS (HOPWA):** \$340 million to increase housing assistance for persons living with HIV/AIDS. This level of funding is \$5 million above the fiscal year 2010 enacted level and is the same as the President's request.

**Native American housing block grants:** \$700 million for Native American housing block grants. This level of funding is \$120 million above President's budget and equal to the fiscal year 2010 enacted level. This level of funding will support the housing and community development needs of Native Americans.

### *Supporting our communities and addressing the foreclosure crisis*

**Community Development Block Grants (CDBG):** \$3.99 billion is provided for CDBG grant funding for States and communities across the Nation. The allocation is the same as the fiscal year 2010 level and the budget request. This funding will assist states and communities that are still struggling as the economy recovers with their continued efforts to invest in and support the needs of low-income communities.

**HOME Investment Partnership:** \$1.825 billion for the HOME Investment Partnership program, which is equal to the level of funding provided in fiscal year 2009 and \$175 million above the President's budget. This funding supports the creation and rehabilitation of low-income housing across the country.

**Capital Grants for the creation of affordable housing:** Within the overall amount provided for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, \$35 million is provided for additional capital grants for the NeighborWorks organization to develop and finance affordable housing projects in communities across the country, especially in rural communities.

**Housing Counseling:** A total of \$225 million for housing counseling efforts. This includes \$100 million for HUD's housing counseling activities including foreclosure prevention activities as well as pre-purchase counseling. In addition, \$125 million is included to continue the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling program that began in fiscal year 2008.

**Combating Rescue Scams:** \$3 million for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation to continue its mortgage rescue scam public education and outreach campaign. The bill also includes an additional \$10 million to target enforcement against mortgage rescue scams.

### *Ensuring the safety of our transportation system*

**Automobile Safety:** \$900 million for vehicle and driver safety programs, which is \$30 million over last year's level. These funds will support research into the causes of sudden unintended acceleration and identify ways to improve vehicle crash worthiness. The bill also provides funds for performance and incentive grants to States that enact distracted driver laws.

**Hazardous Materials Safety:** Funding is provided to increase the safety workforce that administers special permits and approvals for the transportation of hazardous materials. This funding will improve the agency's ability to ensure hazardous materials are transported safely across our Nation's transportation system.

**Rail Safety:** \$150 million is provided for grants to invest in railroad safety technology, including positive train control. This program will help railroads meet the requirement included in the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 that Class I railroads implement positive train control systems by the end of calendar year 2015.

**Aviation Safety:** \$15 million is provided to hire an additional 150 aviation safety inspectors.

**Transit Safety:** \$150 million is provided for grants to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) for capital investments. The bill includes language requiring WMATA to place the highest priority on projects that will improve the safety of the transit system. In addition, the bill provides \$5 million for a new transit safety office, with funding available contingent upon enactment of transit safety legislation.

**Motor Carrier Safety:** An increase of \$20 million is provided to improve motor carrier safety oversight and inspections, new entrant motor carrier safety compliance reviews, and implement high priority safety recommendations made by the National Traffic Safety Administration on the regulation of hours of service.

### *Promoting sustainable communities*

**Planning Capacity Grants:** \$200 million split evenly between the Federal Transit and Highway Administrations to help transportation planning agencies improve their models and better coordinate transportation and housing forecasts.

**Sustainable Communities Initiative:** \$150 million within HUD's Community Development Fund to promote integrated housing and transportation planning. Joining HUD in this initiative will be the Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency. The funding included in the bill will provide grants for integrated housing and transportation planning efforts on both the regional and local level.

**Choice Neighborhoods:** \$250 million for HUD's Choice Neighborhoods Initiative. This new initiative will expand the successful HOPE VI program. While continuing to focus on improving public housing, it also will address the needs of other HUD-assisted housing. In addition to improving housing and revitalizing poor communities, it also promotes better access to schools, transportation, jobs and other services.

**Transit Energy Efficiency Grants:** \$100 million for grants to help transit agencies make cutting-edge and innovative capital investments that will reduce the energy consumption or greenhouse gas emissions of their operations.

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