

# NEWS

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## House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure **DEMOCRATS**

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **House Passes \$283.9 Billion Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill**

WASHINGTON—By a vote of 417-9, the House of Representatives today approved a bill to invest \$283.9 billion in guaranteed funding for highway, transit and related programs.

The bill, HR 3, the Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU), reauthorizes federal surface transportation programs through Fiscal Year 2009.

“We are on the brink of a new era in transportation,” said Rep. James L. Oberstar (Minn.), Ranking Democratic Member on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. “This bill will leave a legacy of substantially increased investment in surface transportation: highways, bridges, safety (over \$6 billion over the life of this legislation), a substantial investment in transit—the fastest growing segment of transportation over the past five years. The environmental provisions of this bill are far-reaching, forward looking, visionary.”

TEA LU will be the signature accomplishment of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress,” said Rep. Peter A. DeFazio, Ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Highways, Transit, and Pipelines. “Through this bill, the investment of tax dollars paid by the American people at the pump will lead to job creation, economic growth, and improved productivity, without adding to the national debt. TEA LU is an investment in America that will pay dividends for years to come.”

The bill would replace the 1998 Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA 21). That bill was due to expire on September 30, 2003, but has been extended to give Congress time to complete work on the successor legislation.

The Senate is drafting its own reauthorization bill, and Oberstar and DeFazio say they hope to hold a conference with the Senate in April to work out differences in the two bills before the current TEA 21 extension expires at the end of May.

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