



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

PRESS RELEASE

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Summary: Fiscal Year 2013 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill *Subcommittee Mark*

	Budget Authority Only	Total Resources
FY 2012 Enacted:	\$57.3 billion	\$109.4 billion
Subcommittee Mark	\$53.4 billion	\$105.5 billion

Washington, DC - Overall, the fiscal year 2013 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill includes proposed budget authority of \$53.4 billion, \$3.9 billion less than the 2012 enacted level. Total funding, including limitations on obligations related to programs funded by the Highway Trust Fund, is \$105.5 billion. The total funding level is \$3.8 billion or 3.5 percent below the equivalent 2012 enacted level.

“This legislation will create jobs and make critical investments in our nation’s roads, bridges, rail and transit systems, and airports. The bill also preserves an essential part of the country’s safety net by protecting housing assistance for low-income families and veterans. I am proud of the bipartisan work that went into this legislation. Working together, we put together a balanced bill that makes responsible investments in our economy and our nation while living within today’s budget constraints.” – Senator Patty Murray, (D-Wash.), Chairman

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 (“TIGER” program): \$500 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 bill requires the Secretary to allocate no less than \$120 million for projects in rural communities. The funding level included in the bill is equal to the fiscal year 2012 enacted level.

Highway Investments: \$39.1 billion for the annual Federal-aid Highway program to support essential investments in roads and bridges in every State across the country. This funding level is equal to the fiscal year 2012 enacted level.

Rail Investments: \$1.75 billion for our nation’s rail infrastructure, of which \$1.45 billion is for Amtrak. Of the total amount provided, \$100 million is for the High Performance Passenger Rail grant program to assist states with the improvement of existing intercity services, congestion mitigation and multi-state planning initiatives. The funding level is \$126 million more than the fiscal year 2012 enacted level.

Transit Investments: \$2.044 billion, \$89 million above the fiscal year 2012 enacted level, for the transit “New Starts” program. This funding supports projects across the Nation that will provide new or expanded public transportation services.

Airport Investments: \$3.35 billion for capital investments at airports across the country. This funding level is equal to the fiscal year 2012 enacted level.

Air Transportation Modernization: \$956 million for the FAA’s NextGen program to modernize the nation’s air traffic control system. This funding level is \$21 million more than the fiscal year 2012 enacted level.

Providing housing and services to our Nation’s most vulnerable

Section 8 Tenant-based rental assistance: \$19.4 billion for housing choice vouchers. This level of funding is \$482 million above the fiscal year 2012 enacted level. This funding is critical to ensure our Nation’s low-income families, especially those hit hard by the recession, can maintain safe, affordable housing. It includes:

- \$17.5 billion for the renewal of current housing choice vouchers and \$1.58 billion for program administration;
- \$75 million for 10,000 new HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers for homeless veterans; and
- \$60 million for the Family Self-Sufficiency program.

Public Housing: \$1.99 billion for the public housing capital fund, an increase of \$110 million above the fiscal year 2012 enacted level. This funding will help maintain public housing. The bill also includes \$4.6 billion for the public housing operating fund, which is \$629 million above the fiscal year 2012 enacted level. The fiscal year 2012 bill required public housing authorities to use their reserves to fund operations. Since these reserves have been used, the increase provided is necessary to maintain current operations.

Project-based rental assistance: \$9.8 billion for the project-based section 8 program, including over \$9.6 billion for the renewal of all project-based contracts for a full 12 months. This level of funding is \$536 million above the fiscal year 2012 enacted level.

Homeless Assistance grants: \$2.15 billion for homeless assistance grants. This level of funding is \$245 million above the fiscal year 2012 enacted level. In response to the increase in family homelessness, the bill includes at least \$286 million for the Emergency Solutions Grant program to prevent families from becoming homeless, or rapidly re-house those that are homeless.

Native American housing block grants: \$650 million for Native American housing block grants. This level of funding will support the housing and community development needs of Native Americans. This level of funding is consistent with the fiscal year 2012 enacted level.

Supporting our communities and addressing the foreclosure crisis

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG): \$3.1 billion is provided for CDBG grant funding for States and communities across the Nation. This is \$152 million above the fiscal year 2012 enacted level. 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 billion for the HOME Investment Partnership program, which is equal to the fiscal year 2012 enacted level. This funding supports the creation and rehabilitation of low-income housing across the country. The bill also includes reforms to ensure that funds are used in a timely fashion for worthy projects.

Housing Counseling: A total of \$135 million for housing counseling efforts. This includes \$55 million for HUD's housing counseling activities, including Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) counseling and pre-purchase counseling. In addition, \$80 million is included to continue the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling program that began in fiscal year 2008.

Ensuring the safety of our transportation system

Automobile Safety: \$809 million for vehicle and driver safety programs, which will support vehicle safety research, drunk driving prevention, and performance and incentive grants to States that enact distracted driver laws.

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety: Includes \$195 million to support pipeline and hazardous materials safety programs, including pipeline safety research and grants for state pipeline safety programs. This funding will improve the agency's ability to ensure the safety of pipeline infrastructure and the transportation of hazardous materials across the Nation.

Aviation Safety: \$1.04 billion is provided to support the FAA's aviation inspector workforce.

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.

Promoting sustainable communities

Sustainable Communities Initiative: \$50 million within HUD's Community Development Fund for the Sustainable Communities Initiative 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: \$120 million for HUD's Choice Neighborhoods Initiative. This initiative will expand the successful HOPE VI program. This level of funding is equal to fiscal year 2012 enacted level. While continuing to focus on improving public housing, it will also 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.

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