



DALLAS REGIONAL MOBILITY COALITION

Leading the Way in Metroplex Transportation Advocacy

Governance Committee

March 24, 2010

Co-Chairs

Hon. Rob Franke
Cedar Hill Mayor

The Honorable John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Jayne Peters
Coppell Mayor

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4304

Vice Chair

Hon. Linda Koop
Dallas City Council

Treasurer

Hon. Rick Stopfer
Irving City Council

Dear Senators Cornyn and Hutchison:

Secretary

Hon. Grady Smithey
Duncanville Mayor
Pro Tem

We are writing to you on behalf of the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition, the leading voice for mobility solutions in the eastern portion of the DFW Metroplex, to urge your support of H.R. 4853, which includes the Surface Transportation Modification Act of 2010. This bill, which the House recently approved, is very important to provide additional surface transportation funding to Texas, at a time when transportation resources are increasingly scarce.

Chair, Legislative Committee

Hon. Steve Mitchell
Richardson City
Council

H.R. 4853 primarily reauthorizes the FAA's aviation programs, but it also contains two very important surface transportation provisions. Those provisions in Section 9 of the bill would amend the recently passed HIRE Act (H.R. 2847) to resolve concerns with the distribution of certain discretionary highway funding in the HIRE Act. The proposed amendatory language uses the regular highway funding formula for all states and would result in approximately **\$76.9 million more in surface transportation funding to Texas**.

Chair, Finance Committee

Hon. John Harper
Rowlett Mayor

Chair, Communications Committee

Hon. Kathy Ward
Collin County
Commissioner

H.R. 4853 would achieve this in two ways: (1) by distributing the Projects of National and Regional Significance (PNRS) and National Corridor Infrastructure Improvement (Corridor) program funding among all states based on each state's share of FY 2009 highway apportioned funds, rather than just distributing funding to only the 29 states that had PNRS and Corridor projects under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU); and (2) by distributing "additional" highway formula funds (which the bill makes available in lieu of additional Congressionally delegated projects) among all of the highway formula programs, rather than just among six formula programs.

Executive Director

Rider Scott

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The previous, less equitable distribution of funds provided for under the HIRE Act resulted when the urgent need to pass that legislation did not allow sufficient time to reconcile major differences between the surface transportation extension title of the HIRE Act and the surface transportation extension previously passed by the House as part of H.R. 2847, the Jobs for Main Street Act. The provisions of the HIRE Act, as passed, skew the highway funding formula to certain states – resulting in four states receiving 58 percent of the PNRS and Corridor funding, while 22 states received nothing.

The corrective provisions of H.R. 4853 would result in 37 states receiving more surface transportation funding (of which Texas is one), without changing the total amount of funds distributed under the HIRE Act.

Because H.R. 4853 would correct the unintended, inequitable funding distribution included in the HIRE Act and benefit Texas, as well as the vast majority of states, the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition strongly urges you to vote in favor of the bill when it comes before the Senate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rob Franke
DRMC Co-Chair

Jayne Peters
DRMC Co-Chair

Rider Scott
DRMC Executive Director

Cc: The Honorable Joe Barton
The Honorable Michael Burgess
The Honorable Chet Edwards
The Honorable Kay Granger
The Honorable Ralph Hall
The Honorable Jeb Hensarling
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
The Honorable Sam Johnson
The Honorable Kenny Marchant
The Honorable John Mica
The Honorable Jim Oberstar
The Honorable Pete Sessions