

October 22, 2000

**BILL SIGNING CEREMONY FOR H.R. 4475, THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT**

DATE: October 23, 2000
LOCATION: Oval Office
BRIEFING TIME: 9:00am – 9:05am
TIME: 9:05am – 9:15am
FROM: Chuck Brain

I. PURPOSE

To sign H.R. 4475, The Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

II. BACKGROUND

The Conference Report to H.R. 4475, the Transportation Appropriations Act passed the House on October 6th, 2000 by a vote of 344 to 50; and the Senate by a vote of 78-10 on the same day.

The bill provides the Department of Transportation with \$56.1 billion in budgetary resources. This is \$3.1 billion above the requested level and 14 percent above the FY 2000 enacted level. It also includes additional funding for critical areas under the Treasury/Postal bill, which were omitted.

This bill includes the 0.08-percent blood alcohol provision, that the Administration strongly supports. The provision imposes cuts in highway funding beginning in FY 2004 if States do not establish a 0.08 percent blood alcohol limit standard, increasing the percentage of highway dollars lost from two to eight percent over four year increments of two percent per year (States can get the money back if they pass the law by 2007). This is one of Senator Frank Lautenberg's (D-NJ) major legislative priorities. He sponsored the bill in the Senate, and worked with Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL) to get this included in the DOT Appropriations bill. In the House, Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) sponsored the bill, and Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA) fought to keep the provision in the Transportation Appropriations bill.

The bill also includes \$600 million of FY 2001 general fund appropriations for the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and \$720 million in contingent emergency funding to address the backlog of emergency highway repair projects.

The bills major funding levels include:

- FAA Grants: The bill provides \$3.2 billion, \$1.25 million above the request and \$1.3 billion above FY 2000.
- Coast Guard: The Conference Report funds the Coast Guard at \$3.7 billion, \$90 million below the requested level, but \$110 million above the FY 2000 enacted level.
- Amtrak: The bill provides funding at the requested level of \$521 million, \$50 million below the FY 2000 enacted level, and is consistent with its goal toward self-sufficiency.
- Federal-aid Highways: The bill provides \$29.7 billion (including obligation limitations), \$343 million over the request and \$2.1 billion over the FY 2000 enacted level. The proposed reallocation of excess highway trust fund receipts was not approved. The Conference Report includes an additional \$720 million in contingent emergency highway relief funds.
- Federal Transit Administration: The bill funds the FTA at \$6.3 billion, \$50 million below request and \$490 million above the FY 2000 enacted level.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing Participants:

John Podesta
Chuck Brain
Jake Siewert
Loretta Ucelli
Barbara Chow
Leanne Shimabukuro
Sam Afridi

Bill Signing Ceremony Participants:

YOU

Secretary Rodney Slater
Dr. Sue Bailey, NHTSA Administrator
Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)
Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY)
Mayor Richard Daley
Mr. Frank Kruesi, President, Transportation Authority of Chicago
Millie Webb, National MADD President and .08 victim, and her daughters Kara Hensel (blind due to .08 accident) and Ashlea Webb
Brenda, Randolph, and Stephanie Frazier

IV. PRESS PLAN

White House Photo only.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

--YOU greet signing ceremony participants in the Oval Office.

--YOU sign the bill.

-- Signing ceremony participants depart the Oval Office.

VI. REMARKS

None required.

.08 BAC / DOT SIGNING CEREMONY 10/23/00

Queens, NY

3:50pm

45min

School OR Community Center

participants:

Millie Webb 4

Other pieces - mentions for Press Paper:

- FAA funding to support delays
- Transp. infrastructure funded @ record lvl's
- US Coastguard
- Access to jobs
- Hours of Service - Rd safety / Truckers

MOCS

Lautenberg - not up for reelection

[Lowrey - can acknowledge - not on stage]
State

Frank Wolfe

Millie Webb - .08 victim / MADD President

Teenagers in SADD T-shirts -

Mothers in MADD T-shirts? + KIDS (pens)

Backdrop