

DAILY NEWS CLIPS

FEDERAL NEWS CLIPS

May 10, 2012

TRANSPO CONFERENCE COMMITTEE DIGS INTO POSITIONS

By Alex Gullien
Politico
May 9, 2012

SOUND AND FURY: The transportation conference committee's first meeting yesterday was, as expected, all talk. During the three-hour affair, in which more than 40 lawmakers spoke, members dug into their previously established positions, including on add-ons like the Keystone XL pipeline and coal ash language. ICYMI, Burgess Everett was on the scene: <http://politico.pro/Jux89j>

FOCUS ON BAUCUS: Sen. Max Baucus wants Keystone in the transportation package and will "fight for" it and the jobs it would bring Montana, but he isn't willing to sink the ship to get it, an aide told ME. "No one is a bigger supporter of the Keystone pipeline than Sen. Baucus, and he absolutely supports adding it to the highway bill conference," the aide said. "But if there aren't enough votes from other conferees to get a highway bill done with Keystone included, we end up with zero jobs, and Sen. Baucus won't sacrifice 14,000 Montana jobs over a couple thousand that can't pass into law. It just doesn't add up."

LOBBYING LETTERS: Several lawmakers shot off strongly worded letters to members on the committee yesterday on a number of energy issues. The rundown:

— Rep. Ed Markey wants to drop all support for USEC's "failed" Ohio enrichment project, calling the effort a "\$150 million earmark" while sniping at the company's financial health. Ohio Sens. Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman secured language in the Senate version of the transportation bill authorizing DOE to transfer existing funds internally to USEC's project. The letter: <http://politico.pro/JuxCMB>

— Rep. David McKinley, joined by 65 Republicans and 19 Democrats, says keeping the language blocking EPA coal ash regulations must stay in. Removing coal ash as an ingredient in concrete would "drive up the cost of concrete and lessen the availability of funds available for upgrading our roads, bridges and other infrastructure," McKinley writes: <http://politico.pro/KizF8e>

—And the big one: Rep. Lee Terry and more than 100 other House members want to make sure Keystone makes it through, for all the good old reasons: energy security, job creation and popular support. The letter: <http://politico.pro/L4B9ma>

WAXMAN: LEAVE KEYSTONE, COAL ASH OUT OF IT: Nothing with Keystone attached will make it past the president's desk, Rep. Henry Waxman says. "Keystone's going to have to get dropped from the bill if they want to get it signed by the president," the top E&C Democrat told ME. "It has nothing to do with the transportation bill. Neither does the coal ash provision or the other anti-environmental measures."

KEYSTONE IS TRANSPORTATION ISSUE, HOEVEN SAYS: "It's vital infrastructure," the North Dakota Republican told ME's colleagues at Morning Transportation. "Just my state alone, it will take 500 trucks a day off the road. You want to talk infrastructure and how important it is in the highway bill? We have trucks that are just pounding our roads and beating up our roads in the energy patch because we don't have this infrastructure."

Originally published here: <http://www.politico.com/morningenergy/>

PANEL SEEKS FEDERAL HIGHWAY FUNDING BILL COMPROMISE

By Malia Rulon Herman

The Daily Record (Newark, NJ)

May 9, 2012

Sen. Robert Menendez called Tuesday for lawmakers charged with coming up with a deal on legislation to fund the nation's transportation programs to work together and stay away from politically charged issues that would kill the bill.

"Given these high stakes, no one in this room should be willing to put politics before the retention and creation of two to three million jobs," Menendez, D-N.J., said.

Menendez is one of 47 House and Senate lawmakers from both parties who met for the first time Tuesday in an attempt to come up with a compromise between versions of the highway bill passed by the House and the Senate.

Their task is not an easy one. In the midst of election-year politics, they are hoping to hammer out a deal that would fund the nation's transportation programs for the next two years. The current highway bill expires June 30.

Their starting point is a \$109 billion Senate-passed version of the bill that would fund transportation programs for two years. Under that version, which passed in March, New Jersey would get the highest public transportation funding ever — \$519 million per year. That's an increase of \$63 million a year, according to Menendez's office.

Overall, New Jersey would get \$1.5 billion for transportation needs under the Senate bill.

But House Republicans had wanted to slash dedicated funding to mass transit.

Under current law, 2.86 cents of the 18.4-cent-per-gallon federal gas tax goes to mass transit. House Republicans had proposed that the transit money instead be used for highways. Although that provision did not pass the House, it's expected to be a contentious issue during the conference committee negotiations.

Menendez said Tuesday that he was committed to protecting mass-transit funding.

"New Jersey Transit hosts 250 million passenger trips each year and is therefore essential to my state's economy," he said, pledging to protect transit provisions that he worked on in the Senate bill.

Other controversial issues that must be settled in the negotiations include a provision in the House bill that would force federal regulators to approve the Keystone Pipeline. The proposed pipeline would extend 1,179 miles from Canada to Nebraska, but President Barack Obama has delayed approval of the project. Also, the House bill would take away the Environmental Protection Agency's power to regulate toxic coal ash.

Senate's provisions

Menendez said the Senate was able to pass its version of the highway bill on a bipartisan 74-22 vote because it did not add controversial elements to the bill. He said he hoped lawmakers would follow that strategy and keep "divisive environmental elements out of this bill."

Other provisions from the Senate version of the highway bill that are under review include:

- A retroactive extension of the mass-transit commuter tax benefit that would allow commuters to spend up to \$240 per month in pretax dollars.
- \$7.8 million in funding for transportation services for seniors and the disabled;
- \$5 million in funding for the National Transit Institute at Rutgers;
- \$20 million to help cities create more livable communities by planning new development around transit hubs; and
- More federal oversight of long-distance and tour buses.

Originally published here: <http://www.dailyrecord.com/article/20120508/NJNEWS10/305080036/Panel-seeks-federal-highway-funding-bill-compromise>

UPDATED LIST OF H.R. 4134 CO-SPONSORS

May 10, 2012

Newest additions are highlighted

Rep. Joseph Crowley [D-NY7]	(joined Mar 07, 2012)
Rep. Renee Ellmers [R-NC2]	(joined Mar 08, 2012)
Rep. Charles Rangel [D-NY15]	(joined Mar 16, 2012)
Rep. Ronald "Ron" Kind [D-WI3]	(joined Mar 20, 2012)
Rep. Howard Coble [R-NC6]	(joined Mar 21, 2012)
Rep. Thomas Marino [R-PA10]	(joined Mar 21, 2012)
Rep. Kurt Schrader [D-OR5]	(joined Mar 22, 2012)
Rep. Leonard Boswell [D-IA3]	(joined Mar 26, 2012)
Rep. Tom Cole [R-OK4]	(joined Mar 26, 2012)
Rep. Walter Jones [R-NC3]	(joined Mar 26, 2012)
Rep. John Sullivan [R-OK1]	(joined Mar 26, 2012)
Rep. Kevin Yoder [R-KS3]	(joined Mar 26, 2012)
Rep. John Barrow [D-GA12]	(joined Mar 27, 2012)
Rep. Adam Kinzinger [R-IL11]	(joined Mar 27, 2012)
Rep. Devin Nunes [R-CA21]	(joined Mar 27, 2012)
Rep. Dennis "Denny" Rehberg [R-MT0]	(joined Mar 27, 2012)
Rep. Ann Marie Buerkle [R-NY25]	(joined Mar 28, 2012)
Rep. Alcee Hastings [D-FL23]	(joined Mar 28, 2012)
Rep. Doris Matsui [D-CA5]	(joined Mar 28, 2012)
Rep. Bennie Thompson [D-MS2]	(joined Mar 28, 2012)
Rep. William Owens [D-NY23]	(joined Mar 29, 2012)
Rep. Thomas Rooney [R-FL16]	(joined Mar 29, 2012)
Rep. Henry Waxman [D-CA30]	(joined Mar 29, 2012)
Rep. Mike McIntyre [D-NC7]	(joined Mar 30, 2012)
Rep. Francisco "Quico" Canseco [R-TX23]	(joined Apr 16, 2012)
Rep. Lois Capps [D-CA23]	(joined Apr 16, 2012)
Rep. Russ Carnahan [D-MO3]	(joined Apr 16, 2012)
Rep. Gerald Connolly [D-VA11]	(joined Apr 16, 2012)
Rep. Bill Flores [R-TX17]	(joined Apr 16, 2012)
Rep. Edward "Ed" Pastor [D-AZ4]	(joined Apr 16, 2012)
Rep. Linda Sánchez [D-CA39]	(joined Apr 16, 2012)
Rep. Peter "Pete" Sessions [R-TX32]	(joined Apr 16, 2012)
Rep. William "Bill" Shuster [R-PA9]	(joined Apr 16, 2012)
Rep. Greg Walden [R-OR2]	(joined Apr 16, 2012)
Rep. Austin Scott [R-GA8]	(joined Apr 17, 2012)
Rep. Dan Boren [D-OK2]	(joined Apr 18, 2012)
Rep. Charles Boustany [R-LA7]	(joined Apr 18, 2012)
Rep. Sam Farr [D-CA17]	(joined Apr 18, 2012)
Rep. Gregg Harper [R-MS3]	(joined Apr 18, 2012)
Rep. Thomas "Tom" Latham [R-IA4]	(joined Apr 18, 2012)
Rep. Cynthia Lummis [R-WY0]	(joined Apr 18, 2012)
Rep. Peter Welch [D-VT0]	(joined Apr 18, 2012)

Rep. Ralph Hall [R-TX4]	(joined Apr 19, 2012)
Rep. Eddie Johnson [D-TX30]	(joined Apr 19, 2012)
Rep. Adam Smith [D-WA9]	(joined Apr 19, 2012)
Rep. Jackie Speier [D-CA12]	(joined Apr 19, 2012)
Rep. Steve Stivers [R-OH15]	(joined Apr 19, 2012)
Rep. Marsha Blackburn [R-TN7]	(joined Apr 24, 2012)
Rep. George "G.K." Butterfield [D-NC1]	(joined Apr 24, 2012)
Rep. Emanuel Cleaver [D-MO5]	(joined Apr 24, 2012)
Rep. Tim Griffin [R-AR2]	(joined Apr 24, 2012)
Rep. Gregory Meeks [D-NY6]	(joined Apr 24, 2012)
Rep. Loretta Sanchez [D-CA47]	(joined Apr 24, 2012)
Rep. Aaron Schock [R-IL18]	(joined Apr 24, 2012)
Rep. David Scott [D-GA13]	(joined Apr 24, 2012)
Rep. William "Mac" Thornberry [R-TX13]	(joined Apr 24, 2012)
Rep. Steve Womack [R-AR3]	(joined Apr 24, 2012)
Rep. Colleen Hanabusa [D-HI1]	(joined Apr 25, 2012)
Rep. Ted Poe [R-TX2]	(joined Apr 25, 2012)
Rep. Charles "Charlie" Gonzalez [D-TX20]	(joined May 07, 2012)
Rep. Rush Holt [D-NJ12]	(joined May 07, 2012)
Rep. Todd Rokita [R-IN4]	(joined May 07, 2012)
Rep. Addison "Joe" Wilson [R-SC2]	(joined May 07, 2012)
Rep. Rodney Alexander [R-LA5]	(joined May 08, 2012)