



For Immediate Release
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Roadway Safety Association Praises New Bill, Efforts of Key Elected Officials Who Focused on “Safety”

Fredericksburg, Va. – The long-awaited federal transportation bill passed last week by both the U.S. House and Senate was a \$286.4 billion measure, which survived two years of congressional wrangling and a few presidential veto threats. The bill provides money for several programs designed to make roads safer for older drivers, pedestrians and students on their way to school.

“This passage of this bill marks an historic moment in the history of our association,” said Roger Wentz, executive director of the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA). “As a result, we asked our 1,800 members last week to thank several key elected officials who worked tirelessly to see this bill through to completion.”

Specifically, ATSSA asked their members to contact the Ranking Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee James L. Oberstar (D.-Minn), and committee members Thomas E. Petri (R.-Wis.) and Nick J. Rahall II (D.-W.Va.) to express their appreciation for their hard work to ensure the bill was passed in both the House and Senate. ATSSA members were also asked to contact Jay Inslee’s (D.-Wash.) office. All four elected officials worked closely with ATSSA over the last two years to help create the “*Core Roadway Safety Program*” component in the new bill.

“The act sets aside \$5 billion over the next four years for a Core Roadway Safety Program,” said Rob Dingess, director of government relations for ATSSA. “That money can be used for intersection improvements, pavement marking upgrades, better road signs, more guardrails – just about anything that will make roads safer,” Dingess said.

In addition, the bill includes about \$612 million over the next five years for a Safe Routes to School program.

“The bill also asks federal highway officials to develop a program aimed at improving roads for older drivers and pedestrians, for instance through signs and highway markings,” Dingess said. He also added, “Roadway workers will be afforded greater protection under this bill with funding for enhanced police presence in work zones, higher worker visibility standards and a greater emphasis on basic training for roadway workers.”

“The emphasis on safety in this bill is great,” Dingess said. “We’ve been working on this bill for such a long time. We’re just ecstatic.”

ATSSA is a roadway safety association whose member’s manufacture and install roadway safety features, such as signs, stripes, guardrails and lighting. The association also places heavy emphasis on roadway work zone safety and training of roadway workers.

On the web: ATSSA.com

(Excerpts provided by Edie Gross, Fredericksburg (Va.) Free Lance-Star newspaper).

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