AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2353
OFFERED BY MR. BLUMENAUER OF OREGON

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 3001. FUTURE FUNDING OF FEDERAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) A robust, modern transportation network is critical to the economic growth and success of the Nation, the States, and cities, counties, towns, and rural areas.

(2) There is a significant and urgent need for additional Federal investment to repair, rehabilitate, modernize, improve, and expand all modes of surface transportation infrastructure.

(3) The value of Federal revenues dedicated to surface transportation infrastructure has diminished over time due to inflation, vehicle efficiency, alternative fuels, and demographic trends.

(4) Since 2008, this has led to transfers from the general fund of the Treasury to the Highway Trust Fund of over $64 billion.
(5) Short-term extensions of Federal surface transportation programs are inefficient and prevent long-term capital planning and budgeting required for successful infrastructure investments.

(6) There have been 23 short-term extensions of surface transportation programs since the last 6-year bill expired in 2003.

(7) The Nation urgently needs a long-term authorization of surface transportation programs to support State and local transportation officials in making the best use of taxpayer funds and achieving a high return on their investment.

(8) The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate should develop, and as soon as practicable report out, legislation providing for a long-term authorization of surface transportation programs within their respective jurisdictions.

(9) The Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate should develop, and as soon as
practicable report out, legislation providing sufficient
revenue to offset the cost of such a long-term au-
thorization of surface transportation programs.

(10) The House of Representatives and the
Senate should pass legislation providing for a long-
term authorization of surface transportation pro-
grams, appoint conferees, and agree to a conference
report as soon as possible.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
gress that—

(1) no fewer than 2 hearings on transportation
funding should be held by each of the Committee on
Ways and Means and the Committee on Transpor-
tation and Infrastructure of the House of Represent-
atives before July 30, 2015, and no fewer than one
hearing should be a joint hearing; and

(2) over the course of these hearings, witnesses
should include recognized leaders in fields of labor,
business, transit, active transportation, livability,
construction, and freight movement, as well as State
and local government officials.

(c) PROHIBITIONS ON CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION.—

(1) Prohibitions.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—It shall not be in order in the House of Representatives (or in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union) to consider a bill or joint resolution, or a conference report on a bill or joint resolution, that—

(i) extends spending authority for surface transportation programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund to a date that occurs during the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on September 30, 2021; or

(ii) authorizes funding for surface transportation programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund at annual fiscal year levels that are less than the annual fiscal year levels that are in effect for such programs, as adjusted for inflation, on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) NO WAIVER PERMITTED.—The Speaker of the House (or the chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, as the case may be) may not entertain a unani-
mous consent request or a motion to suspend
subsection (A).

(2) EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.—

This subsection is enacted by Congress—

(A) as an exercise of the rulemaking power
of the House of Representatives, and as such it
is deemed a part of the rules of the House, and
it supersedes other rules only to the extent that
it is inconsistent with such rules; and

(B) with full recognition of the constitu-
tional right of the House to change the rules at
any time, in the same manner, and to the same
extent as in the case of any other rule of the
House.

(C) NO WAIVER PERMITTED.—The Speak-
er of the House (or the chair of the Committee
of the Whole House on the State of the Union,
as the case may be) may not entertain a unani-
mos consent request or a motion to suspend
subsection (A).