

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2353

OFFERED BY MR. BLUMENAUER OF OREGON

At the end of the bill, add the following:

1 **TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS**

2 **SEC. 3001. FUTURE FUNDING OF FEDERAL SURFACE**
3 **TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

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

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

13 (3) The value of Federal revenues dedicated to
14 surface transportation infrastructure has diminished
15 over time due to inflation, vehicle efficiency, alter-
16 native fuels, and demographic trends.

17 (4) Since 2008, this has led to transfers from
18 the general fund of the Treasury to the Highway
19 Trust Fund of over \$64 billion.

1 (5) Short-term extensions of Federal surface
2 transportation programs are inefficient and prevent
3 long-term capital planning and budgeting required
4 for successful infrastructure investments.

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

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

13 (8) The Committee on Transportation and In-
14 frastructure of the House of Representatives and the
15 Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-
16 fairs, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
17 Transportation, and the Committee on Environment
18 and Public Works of the Senate should develop, and
19 as soon as practicable report out, legislation pro-
20 viding for a long-term authorization of surface
21 transportation programs within their respective ju-
22 risdictions.

23 (9) The Committee on Ways and Means of the
24 House of Representatives and the Committee on Fi-
25 nance of the Senate should develop, and as soon as

1 practicable report out, legislation providing sufficient
2 revenue to offset the cost of such a long-term au-
3 thorization of surface transportation programs.

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

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

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

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

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

24 (1) PROHIBITIONS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—It shall not be in order
2 in the House of Representatives (or in the Com-
3 mittee of the Whole House on the State of the
4 Union) to consider a bill or joint resolution, or
5 a conference report on a bill or joint resolution,
6 that—

7 (i) extends spending authority for sur-
8 face transportation programs funded out of
9 the Highway Trust Fund to a date that
10 occurs during the period beginning on Oc-
11 tober 1, 2015, and ending on September
12 30, 2021; or

13 (ii) authorizes funding for surface
14 transportation programs funded out of the
15 Highway Trust Fund at annual fiscal year
16 levels that are less than the annual fiscal
17 year levels that are in effect for such pro-
18 grams, as adjusted for inflation, on the
19 day before the date of enactment of this
20 Act.

21 (B) NO WAIVER PERMITTED.—The Speak-
22 er of the House (or the chair of the Committee
23 of the Whole House on the State of the Union,
24 as the case may be) may not entertain a unani-

1 mous consent request or a motion to suspend
2 subparagraph (A).

3 (2) EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.—

4 This subsection is enacted by Congress—

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

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

15 (C) NO WAIVER PERMITTED.—The Speak-
16 er of the House (or the chair of the Committee
17 of the Whole House on the State of the Union,
18 as the case may be) may not entertain a unani-
19 mous consent request or a motion to suspend
20 subparagraph (A).

