

Tri-State Transportation and Infrastructure Projects in the 110th Congress



Office of Congressman Bruce Braley
U.S. Representative
Iowa's 1st Congressional District

Congressman Braley Committee Assignments

- Small Business Committee
 - Chairman - Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology
- Government Oversight and Reform Committee
- Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
 - Vice-Chairman - Highway and Transit Subcommittee
 - Aviation subcommittee
 - Rail subcommittee

Infrastructure Appropriations Secured by Congressman Braley in FY 08

- \$492,000 for Davenport wastewater system improvements
- \$653,000 for Iowa Quad Cities flood protection
- \$295,000 for Clinton wastewater treatment plant construction
- \$490,000 for Eastern Iowa Community College entrance road on US 67
- \$5.1 million for Lock and Dam 11 (Dubuque) ongoing rehabilitation work

2007 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), HR 1495

- Passed by House on 4/17/07
 - Vote was 394 to 25
- Passed by Senate on 5/16/07
 - Vote was 91-4
- Committee Report approved by House (381-40) and Senate (81-12), bill sent to President on 9/24
- Vetoed by President on 11/2/07
- Passed by House and Senate over veto on 11/9/07
 - First Congressional override of veto by President Bush

Debate Surrounding WRDA 2007 Authorizations

- Water Resources bill supposed to be passed every 2 years. Prior to WRDA 2007, the most recent WRDA was enacted in 2000
 - Result: enormous project backlog
- WRDA 2007 estimated cost \$23 billion over 15 years
 - This total exceeded earlier House, Senate, and White House cost estimates
- Primary debate concerned authorization levels and priorities
 - President wanted authorizations limited to USACE primary missions of navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, and ecosystem restoration
 - Which projects should be undertaken first? Gulf Coast wetland restoration? Florida Everglade restoration? Upper Mississippi navigation and ecosystem restoration?

WRDA 2007 and the Upper Mississippi River

- Congressman Braley strongly supports maintaining and expanding the federal governments navigation, ecosystem restoration, and recreation investments on the Upper Mississippi River and its tributaries
- **WRDA 2007 authorized \$3.9 billion for Upper Mississippi River**
 - \$2.2 billion in navigation investments
 - \$1.7 billion in restoration activities
- Projects include environmental restoration work north of Lock 11 (Dubuque); mooring facilities at Lock 12 (Bellevue) and Lock 14 (Le Claire)
- Congressman Braley shepherded the bill through the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Future Water Resources Bills and Funding

- Congressman Braley supports robust funding of the Upper Mississippi navigation and ecosystem restoration projects authorized in WRDA 2007
- House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has already started work on WRDA 2008
- Congressman Braley has worked closely with communities in Eastern Iowa to identify projects that may fit in future WRDA legislation

Key Pieces of Legislation Pertaining to Passenger Rail in 110th Congress

- 2007 Consolidated Appropriations Act
 - Frequently called 2007 Omnibus Spending Bill
 - Includes Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program
- Amtrak Reauthorization Act (S294)
 - Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2007

2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act

- Includes \$1.357 billion for Amtrak operations, capital, and debt services, and \$75 million for various state-matching capital grants
 - This funding is part of the 2008 Transportation, HUD, and Urban Development budget, one of 12 annual budgets passed by Congress

Background: Passenger rail is a small piece of the Consolidated Appropriations Act. The bill contained 11 of 12 fiscal 2008 spending bills and totaled \$516 billion. **It was signed in to law on 12/27/07**

2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act--\$30 million for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program

- States or groups of states apply
- Program provides a 50/50 match to state funding for capital projects
- Projects that receive these funds must be on a route that requires no operating subsidy OR the state/states must be willing to provide the operating subsidy
- Projects must be part of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan at the time of application

S-294, The Amtrak Reauthorization Act

- S 294, the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2007
 - Passed by the Senate in October 2007 and sent to House Rail Subcommittee
 - Proposes \$3.3 billion in Amtrak operating grants and \$6.3 billion in capital grants for FY 2007-FY 2012
 - House T and I Rail Subcommittee anticipates addressing bill in coming months

S-294 Includes \$1.4 billion Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program

- Congressman Braley supports creating and funding the Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program
 - Will strongly support lines serving Iowa, especially the proposed Chicago-Dubuque and Chicago-Quad City lines

Bruce Braley's Priorities for Amtrak Reauthorization Bill

- \$1.6 billion for intercity passenger rail grant program
 - \$.2 billion more than amount passed by Senate
- Provision to allow federal grants to cover up to 80% of total cost of project
- Project selection criteria giving preference to projects that have a completed feasibility study
- Congressman Braley submitted these recommendations to Chairman Oberstar on 2/22/08

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