

I voted Yes on H.R. 4281, the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2012.

This bill would extend our federal highway, transit, and safety programs for 90 days. These programs are set to lapse on March 31, 2012, and cannot be allowed to expire. Without the extension provided by H.R. 4281, federal-aid road and bridge projects around the country would grind to a halt, thousands of construction workers would be put out of work, and states would no longer be reimbursed from the federal government for these projects.

The previous long-term transportation bill expired in September 2009 and has since been running on a series of short-term extensions. We cannot afford to limp along under more short-term extensions or a new, short-term bill. As the Vice Chairman of the Highway and Transit Subcommittee, I have been working with my colleagues to enact a five-year transportation bill to fully reauthorize these programs. Without the certainty provided by a long-term bill, states and contractors will be unable to plan for and undertake the kinds of large-scale infrastructure improvements we so desperately need, particularly in Upstate New York.

I am committed to passing a multi-year transportation bill in the coming weeks to make this the final extension and put people back to work rebuilding our roads and bridges.

H.R. 4281 was agreed to by a vote of 266 - 158.