

I'm writing to let you know the requirements that must be met in order to have a transportation High Priority Project considered for submission to the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee for inclusion in the reauthorization of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (P.L.109-59). SAFETEA-LU is scheduled to expire on September 30th. **In summary, we'll need to receive by April 27th a completed Request Form and a Letter of Support, both of which are discussed in more detail below.**

The House T&I Committee has set a deadline of May 8 to receive requests from members of Congress for High Priority Projects in each state. As a result of the T&I Committee's deadline, and the significant amount of information that must be processed for each High Priority Project request, Representative Herseth Sandlin's office needs to receive requests for funding **no later than Monday, April 27.**

Applicants must complete the **Request Form** (attached) in full and return it to Ashley Martin in Rep. Herseth Sandlin's Office by April 27th. She can be reached at Ashley.Martin@mail.house.gov or 202-225-2801. As you can see from the Request Form, the House T&I Committee is requiring a significant level of detail. Please review the form as quickly as possible and contact Ashley with any questions about completing the form.

The T&I Committee also requires for each High Priority Project a **Letter of Support** from the state, regional, or local government specifically supporting each High Priority Project request. Applicants must also submit that letter to Ashley Martin by April 27th. Additional details on what information the letter must contain are provided below.

*****Only if both the completed Request Form and the Letter of Support are received, and provide the requisite information, can a High Priority Project request be considered.*****

Again, by way of review, these are the requirements to be considered as a High Priority Project:

1. For each project, complete the Request Form (attached) and submit it by April 27th to Ashley Martin in Rep. Herseth Sandlin's Washington DC office.
2. For each project, submit to Ashley Martin by April 27th the Letter of Support from the state, regional, or local government specifically supporting the project request.

What the Letter of Support Must Contain

The T&I Committee requires that this letter:

- Discuss the merits of the project;
- Specify the process by which the public will be provided with an opportunity to comment on the project;
- Identify the other sources of Federal, state, or private funding that will be used to complete this project or project phase.
- **Contain an explicit statement of support for the project.**

- **If the funding request is for less than 80 percent of the total estimated cost of the specific segment or activity, the letter must identify other specifically designated Federal, state, local, or private funding sources that, combined with this request, equal at least 80 percent of the total estimated cost.**

****The Committee requires that boldface font (as used above) be used to highlight the explicit statement of support and, if necessary, the other specifically designated Federal, state, local, or private funding sources that, combined with this request, equal at least 80 percent of the total estimated cost..**

Prioritizing Project Requests

If you are submitting more than one request, then you must complete a separate Request Form and submit a separate Letter of Support for each project.

In addition, multiple project requests must be prioritized -- explicitly list the top priority, the next highest priority, etc.

Public Disclosure of Projects

All High Priority Project requests the congresswoman submits, including the funding amount, will be posted on the congresswoman's website.

The T&I Committee will post on its website all High Priority Projects that are included in the bill.

Ashley Martin is coordinating all requests with the Committee. If you have any questions, please contact Ashley by phone at 202-225-2801 or email at Ashley.Martin@mail.house.gov.

I look forward to seeing you all this week – if not in Pierre, then on Thursday morning at 11 AM at SECOG for your meeting with the Congresswoman.

Mark Gerhardt

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