

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Lee Terry (NE-02) joined a majority of the House today in passing the Conference Report for the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (H.R. 3), sending the measure to the President's desk for his signature. H.R. 3 was approved by a bipartisan vote of 412 to 8.

"I am proud to vote for this critical legislation to improve transportation in Nebraska and across ," Terry said. **"The highway bill will strengthen our economy, create more jobs, reduce traffic congestion, and enhance safety and convenience for travelers. I was proud to secure funding for transportation improvements in Douglas and Sarpy Counties , and was especially pleased to work with Senators Hagel and Nelson, and Congressmen Fortenberry and King to benefit our area. I look forward to President Bush signing the measure into law."**

The conference report would authorize \$286.4 billion in guaranteed spending and \$295 billion in contract authority for the federal highway program. The transportation improvements Congressman Terry helped to secure include:

* \$15.7 million for the Cuming Street Transportation Improvement Project, a partnership between Creighton University and the City of Omaha to improve main access to downtown Omaha shops and businesses, the Qwest conference center and newly-renovated riverfront;

* \$5.6 million for the Western Douglas County Trails Project to construct 25 miles of recreational trail connecting residents in Valley, Waterloo and Elkhorn with Omaha ;

* \$24.925 million for the U.S. Highway 34 Missouri River Bridges Project, a joint venture between the Nebraska Department of Roads and the Iowa Department of Transportation to replace two obsolete bridges crossing the Missouri River;

* \$4 million to construct a freeway interchange at

Pflug Road and I-80 in Sarpy County, Nebraska , to support local economic growth, and increase safety and convenience for travelers;

* \$1 million for Nebraska Intelligent Transportation Systems to help with the electronic dissemination of information such as AMBER alerts and traffic warnings on the Omaha freeway system.

The Reverend John P. Schlegel, President of Creighton University, said: "The

Cuming Street corridor is an important new 'front door' for Omaha . Creighton University is proud to be a key participant in one of the most significant development efforts in the city's history. Completion of this project will encourage economic development, enhance safety and improve traffic flow throughout the entire downtown area."

Steve Oltmans, General Manager of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District noted that the \$5.6 million achieved by Congressman Terry for the Western Douglas County Trails System will enhance the timetable for connecting the communities of Valley, Waterloo, Elkhorn and Omaha into the overall trails system throughout the metropolitan area. The project will ultimately connect to the trails system at 168th and Dodge Streets to the existing trail along the West Branch Papio Watershed .

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