

WASHINGTON- Congressman Bachus, the only Alabama Representative on the House Transportation Committee, announced today that \$18.3 million in special Congressional funding has been made available to reimburse the state for past and future damage repair work to help restore Alabama's highways and bridges to their pre-hurricane Ivan conditions.

“With these emergency funds available, we will insure that not one penny of Alabama transportation dollars will be diverted from other highway priorities to pay for hurricane damage,” Bachus said.

Bachus continued, “Even though highways and bridges were damaged by Hurricane Ivan, this emergency funding will allow us to continue work on major projects without slowing the construction of additional lanes and needed safety improvements for our congested interstates.”

In the event of a natural disaster, Congress can allocate special funding to repair or reconstruct Federal-aid highways which have suffered serious damage. This program, commonly referred to as the Emergency Relief Program, guarantees that state transportation funds are not diverted to pay for any damage that is caused by a natural disaster.

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