

WASHINGTON- Congressman Spencer Bachus announced today

that on Wednesday, March 24th, 2004, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is scheduled to vote on the Six- Year Transportation Authorization Bill that has been a topic of much discussion during the past few weeks.

□

Included in the Transportation Authorization Bill are several highway projects that will have a significant impact on the Birmingham Metropolitan Area and Alabama's Sixth Congressional District

.

Included in the Bill are the following:

**1. Birmingham Northern Beltline.
PROJECT FUNDING: \$20,000,000**

2. U.S. 280 Urban Interchanges from U.S. 31 (Red Mountain Expressway) to Shelby County Road 47.

PROJECT FUNDING: \$10,000,000

3. I-65 Widening to six lanes in Shelby County from AL 119 to AL 25.

PROJECT FUNDING: \$10,000,000

4. Valleydale Road Widening from U.S. 31 to I-65 (Shelby County Road 17).

PROJECT FUNDING: \$5,000,000

5. I-20 Widening and Safety Improvements in St. Clair County.

PROJECT FUNDING: \$5,000,000

6. Shelby County Road 52 Widening from S. Shades Crest Road to U.S. 31 in Helena and Pelham.

PROJECT FUNDING: \$5,000,000

7. U.S. 82 – I-65 Connector and/or AL 5 improvements in Bibb County.

PROJECT FUNDING: \$3,000,000

8. Pedestrian Improvements for the cities of Moody, Leeds, Homewood, Columbiana, Northport, Gardendale, Morris, Centerpoint, and Pell City.

PROJECT FUNDING: \$1,200,000

9. City of Vestavia Hills Pedestrian Walkway to cross U.S. 31.

PROJECT FUNDING: \$500,000

10. American Village- Montevallo construction of closed loop Access Road, Bus lanes, and parking facility.

PROJECT FUNDING: \$300,000

Congressman Bachus is the only Alabama Congressman who serves on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He noted the importance of this development in terms of the Sixth District's obvious need for upgrading of its highway and road infrastructure:

"Priority was given to those projects which would result in safer and more efficient traffic flow and economic development."

Bachus added: "All of these projects, particularly the Northern Beltline, should create thousands of jobs for Alabamians."

"An efficient transportation system will reduce pollution, ease congestion, and increase safety," said Bachus.

###