

WASHINGTON-Congressman Spencer Bachus announced today that the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has approved a prospectus that would allow the General Services Administration (GSA) to pursue a new location for the Social Security Administration Center in downtown Birmingham. This authorization will allow private developers to make proposals to construct a new 587,528 square foot building in downtown Birmingham estimated to cost in excess of \$150 million. GSA will select a developer to construct the building that GSA will lease upon completion.

The new facility will replace the existing building that has housed the SSA since the early 1970's. "I strongly support the construction of this new building and made this a top priority of mine in the committee", Bachus said. "This action will allow the replacement of the existing obsolete and inefficient facility by a modern structure that will enhance the downtown area."

The GSA is authorized review suitable new sites in downtown Birmingham. The new structure, built with entirely private capital, is expected to spur development for the core city. "After meeting with officials from the City of Birmingham and Operation New Birmingham to discuss the need for a new facility, it became obvious that a modern structure would have a positive effect on the surrounding area", Bachus said.

The prospectus will now head to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works for final approval.