

WASHINGTON (April 28) – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) welcomed the announcement of a special bid opening for a \$200 million interchange construction project north of Downtown Birmingham that will connect Corridor X to Interstate 65.

The bid opening by the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) for the largest highway construction project in state history is scheduled for May 21, according to an announcement by Governor Bob Riley.

“Much work has gone into making a reality of Corridor X, which I have always felt is vital to our economic development. This interchange project will create immediate construction jobs and pump a \$200 million boost into the Birmingham area economy. Over the long term, a completed interstate connecting Birmingham and Memphis will lead to new development opportunities throughout our part of Alabama. It has been a pleasure to work to ensure proper federal support for this important project,” Bachus said today.

The project will involve the construction of ramps and bridges connecting Interstate 65 to Corridor X – which has been designated as Interstate 22 – north of the downtown area. The work is expected to take to take three years to complete.

In the House, Congressman Bachus worked with then-Congressman Roger Wicker of Mississippi to have Corridor X included in the National Interstate Highway System, which ensured ongoing federal construction and maintenance funding for the project. He helped secure increased Appalachian Regional Commission funds for Alabama and worked to author a change in the federal highway formula that has returned more than \$200 million in additional funds annually to the State of Alabama for projects like Corridor X and other important highway work.

