

## **Reauthorization of Federal Surface Transportation Programs**

- Current legislation, SAFETEA-LU, expires September 30, 2009.
- Most funding in this legislation goes to “core” highway programs—highway construction, maintenance, bridges and bridge maintenance, congestion and air quality mitigation, safety improvement.
- The primary source of funds for these programs is from per gallon gas and diesel taxes.
- State and local governments, transit authorities in particular, have a lot at stake in this legislation.
- Passage of the last reauthorization, in 2005, was nearly two years overdue.
- There were more than 5,000 earmarks in the 2005 bill, totaling an estimated \$14.8 billion.
- The 1998 legislation, TEA-21, has an estimated 1,850 earmarks totaling an estimated \$9.4 billion.

### **New York State Members of the House Transportation Committee:**

(D): Jerrold Nadler; Timothy H. Bishop; Brian Higgins; John J. Hall; Michael A. Arcuri

(R): John R. “Randy” Kuhl Jr.

### **Sample Earmarks from SAFETEA-LU:**

Los Angeles Community College (CA)

\$1,254,000~Design and build improved transit and pedestrian linkages to rail and bus lines

Pierce College (CA)

\$836,000~Pierce College Bus Rapid Transit Station Extension

University of Vermont

\$1,000,000~Research into hydrogen fuel-cell and biofuel-transportation technology

### **Resources:**

CRS Report for Congress

*Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act — A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU or SAFETEA): Selected Major Provisions*

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL33119\\_20051018.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL33119_20051018.pdf)

Chronicle of Higher Education

*Congressional Earmarks for Higher Education in the 2005 Transportation Bill*

<http://chronicle.com/free/2005/08/20050815pork.htm>