

HAROLD ROGERS
5TH DISTRICT, KENTUCKY

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
STATE AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS
RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1705

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

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April 19, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves,

I am writing to request funding for the Harlan County, Kentucky "Improve US 421 near the Virginia State Line" project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation. The sponsor for this project is Ronald B. Rigney, PE & PLS with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the project is located in Cranks, Kentucky 40820.

The funding is designated for the reconstruction of US 421 from the end of the existing 4-lane section to the Virginia state line to address safety issues, rockfalls, landslides, and roadway horizontal and vertical alignments. Completing the necessary improvements to US 421 will have a positive effect on traffic safety.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have several important benefits. These benefits include improving the current roadway that is narrow and winding over mountainous terrain. Motor vehicle accidents during snow and inclement weather are frequent, resulting in road closures due to the lack of shoulders on either side of the highway. Large vehicles, such as tractor trailers and school buses, struggle to navigate the road's sharp turns. From an economic development perspective, the road improvements would have a profound effect on Harlan County and southeastern Kentucky. US 421 is Harlan County's primary thoroughfare into southwest Virginia and the Tri-Cities area of Tennessee. Improved transportation between these areas will make Harlan County more attractive to investment from these areas, leading to job creation and boosting local tourism efforts.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,


HAL ROGERS
Member of Congress