



CRFB Comments on Short-Term Highway Bill July 15, 2015

PRESIDENT

MAYA MACGUINEAS

DIRECTORS

BARRY ANDERSON

ERSKINE BOWLES

CHARLES BOWSHER

KENT CONRAD

DAN CRIPPEN

VIC FAZIO

WILLIS GRADISON

WILLIAM HOAGLAND

JIM JONES

LOU KERR

JIM KOLBE

DAVE MCCURDY

JAMES MCINTYRE, JR.

DAVID MINGE

MARNE OBERNAUER, JR.

JUNE O'NEILL

PAUL O'NEILL

BOB PACKWOOD

LEON PANETTA

RUDOLPH PENNER

TIM PENNY

PETER PETERSON

ROBERT REISCHAUER

ALICE RIVLIN

CHARLES ROBB

MARTIN SABO

ALAN K. SIMPSON

JOHN SPRATT

CHARLIE STENHOLM

GENE STEUERLE

DAVID STOCKMAN

JOHN TANNER

TOM TAUKE

LAURA TYSON

GEORGE VOINOVICH

PAUL VOLCKER

CAROL COX WAIT

DAVID M. WALKER

JOSEPH WRIGHT, JR.

The House of Representatives is scheduled to vote today on a five-month patch to extend current highway spending through the end of the year. Breaking with the recent precedent of deficit financing most policies, this patch is paid for. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget supports the policy of offsetting the costs of general revenue transfer into the Highway Trust Fund with real savings but believes a more permanent fix will ultimately be needed.

“Congress is taking the high road in fully paying for the highway extension,” said Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. “It is refreshing to see Congress pursue real offsets rather than gimmicks, but we just can’t keep funding our roads and bridges a few months at a time.”

The bill under consideration would continue spending at current levels. It would offset the \$8 billion cost by improving tax compliance and extending the current budget treatment of airport security fees. (A summary is available [here](#).) Most of these policies have been included in plans previously put forward by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

“The offsets are solid, no question. But any short-term patch should also be accompanied with a process for long-term reform as we proposed in the [Road to Sustainable Highway Spending](#),” MacGuineas said. “Washington needs to come to grips with reality – our highway system needs a secure financing system. Instead of wasting time debating a five-month fix, our leaders need to begin working on a more permanent solution to responsibly pay for our national infrastructure.”

###

For more information, contact Jack Deutsch at deutsch@crfb.org.