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Rahall, Rockefeller, Manchin Announce DOT Funding for Tri-State Transit Upgrades

BECKLEY, W.Va. – U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.), along with Senators Jay Rockefeller and Joe Manchin (both D-W.Va.), Tuesday announced that the Tri-State Transit Authority (TTA) has been awarded a \$1.2 million grant to renovate and expand its facility in Huntington.

“Investing in TTA is investing in jobs. From getting families to work, school, and the doctor to the Pullman – Marshall Shuttle, TTA is a key link in the area’s economy,” said Rahall, who serves as the top Democrat on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. “The immediate benefits of safety and technical training to TTA’s drivers, mechanics, and staff from using the expanded space and equipment will have a lasting positive impact on our region. Senator Byrd’s earmark will serve a generation of public safety needs. It’s a good lesson to the short-sighted Washington naysayers who want to cut vital investments in jobs and long-term growth.”

“At a time when most programs’ budgets are being cut, it is critical that we keep investing in West Virginia’s public transportation system so that it’s up-to-date and efficient,” said Senator Rockefeller, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. “This money will make sure that Tri-State Transit Authority has the space and resources it needs to provide quality transportation services to West Virginians in Huntington and across the state.”

"It is so critical to invest in the transportation infrastructure that powers our state, so that seniors can get to their doctors' appointments and people can get to work," Senator Manchin said. "Now is the time to invest in our own country and start rebuilding America, and this grant does just that."

The grant will be used to upgrade and expand the existing facility by adding a second floor to house administrative offices and training facilities. Currently, operations and administrative functions, as well as maintenance functions, are conducted within a single story 4,200 square foot building that does not have enough space to reasonably accommodate TTA activities. Training activities for drivers, mechanics, and staff are conducted in the garage work area.

The funding was awarded through the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration's Bus and Bus Facilities program, which offers capital assistance for new and replacement buses, related equipment, and facilities.