Cancellation No. 97-72

CANCELLATION OF
DOLLAR AMOUNT OF DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY
Report Pursuant to the Line Item Veto Act, P.L. 104-130

Bill Citation: "Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998" (H.R. 2169)

1(A). Dollar Amount of Discretionary Budget Authority: $5,280 thousand for improvements to Seward dock on page 72 of House Report 105-313, dated October 7, 1997.

1(B). Determinations: This cancellation will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest.

1(C), (E). Reasons for Cancellation; Facts, Circumstances, and Considerations Relating to or Bearing Upon the Cancellation; and Estimated Effect of Cancellation on Objects, Purposes, and Programs: Senate Report 105-55 provided $7,000,000 funding to "be utilized to expand and improve the Seward Dock, the southernmost terminus of the [Alaska] railroad and an important intermodal transfer point on the Alaska Marine Highway System. The State of Alaska, the city of Seward, the Alaska Railroad, and cruise ship lines that utilize the port will provide significant cost-share funding toward completion of the project this fiscal year."

The Conference Report, House Report 105-313 "reduced the amount for improvements to the Seward dock from $7,000,000 in the Senate bill to $5,280,000. Such reduction will result in increased local participation in the project, particularly by the city of Seward. Therefore, the conferees direct the department to provide funding for the dock improvements directly to the city to complete the intermodal improvements on behalf of the Alaska Railroad."

The Alaska Railroad, a state owned railroad, owns the Seward dock and certain surrounding port facilities. The dock was built by the Federal government following the 1964 Alaska earthquake and was designed to handle conventional and containerized cargo, logs, petroleum, and steel and serves as a cruise ship terminal.

The funding would rehabilitate the current dock, dredge, relocate a fishery dock, pave adjacent areas, build a new bulkhead on the current dock, and improve facilities for passenger movement off the docks. The enhanced dock would be able to handle additional freight and passenger ship capacity. The total project cost is over $8 million. The balance of the project costs not covered by this appropriation would be financed by the City and the Alaska Railroad.

The project is being canceled for the following reasons:

1. The Federal Railroad Administration is charged with overseeing the safety of the Nation's railroads. This project is primarily an economic development project which, while involving a

railroad, will primarily benefit to the City of Seward, the State of Alaska and private cargo haulers and passenger ships. Funding of such mixed-use projects would set an unfortunate precedent for spending Federal Railroad Administration funding.

2. The Senate and Conference reports do not cite any independent investment analysis concerning the potential return of the project. No analysis has been done to quantify the safety or economic benefits of this project.

1(D). Estimated Fiscal, Economic, and Budgetary Effect of Cancellation: As a result of the cancellation, Federal outlays will not increase, as specified below. This will have a commensurate effect on the Federal budget deficit and, to that extent, will have a beneficial effect on the economy.

Outlay Changes (in thousands of dollars)					
FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	Total
-2,112	-3,168	-----	-----	-----	-5,280

1(F). Adjustments to Non-Defense Discretionary Spending Limits:
Budget authority: -$5,280 thousand in FY 1998
Outlays: The estimated outlay effect for each year is shown above.

Evaluation of Effects of These Adjustments upon Sequestration Procedures: If a sequestration were required, such sequestration would occur at levels that are reduced by the amounts above.

2(A). Agency: Department of Transportation
2(A). Bureau: Federal Railroad Administration
2(A). Governmental Function/Project (Account): Seward Dock (Alaska Railroad Rehabilitation)

2(B). States and Congressional Districts Affected: Alaska, At Large

2(C). Total Number of Cancellations (inclusive) in Current Session in each State and District identified above: Alaska: two

Cancellation No. 97-73

CANCELLATION OF
DOLLAR AMOUNT OF DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY
Report Pursuant to the Line Item Veto Act, P.L. 104-130

Bill Citation: "Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998" (H.R. 2169)

1(A). Dollar Amount of Discretionary Budget Authority: $500 thousand for an Electronic Distribution Center for Surplus Transit-Related Equipment on page 75 of House Report 105-313, dated October 7, 1997.

1(B). Determinations: This cancellation will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest.

1(C), (E). Reasons for Cancellation; Facts, Circumstances, and Considerations Relating to or Bearing Upon the Cancellation; and Estimated Effect of Cancellation on Objects, Purposes, and Programs: This item provides funds to private companies for start up costs associated with an electronic "bulletin board" service for surplus transit equipment. The companies involved have indicated that they have a proprietary package that could be used for transit, and would sell subscriptions to fund ongoing operating costs. The merits of this proposal and need for this service have not been demonstrated. It is inappropriate to use federal funds to assist private companies that are not serving a demonstrated, well-defined public need.

1(D). Estimated Fiscal, Economic, and Budgetary Effect of Cancellation: As a result of the cancellation, Federal outlays will not increase, as specified below. This will have a commensurate effect on the Federal budget deficit and, to that extent, will have a beneficial effect on the economy.

Outlay Changes (in thousands of dollars)					
FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	Total
-100	-150	-100	-100	-50	-500

1(F). Adjustments to Non-Defense Discretionary Spending Limits:

Budget authority: -$500 thousand in FY 1998

Outlays: The estimated outlay effect for each year is shown above.

Evaluation of Effects of These Adjustments upon Sequestration Procedures: If a sequestration were required, such sequestration would occur at levels that are reduced by the amounts above.

2(A). Agency: Department of Transportation

2(A). Bureau: Federal Transit Administration

2(A). Governmental Function/Project (Account): Transit Research and Development (Transit Planning and Research).

2(B). States and Congressional Districts Affected: Georgia, 3rd Congressional District

2(C). Total Number of Cancellations (inclusive) in Current Session in each State and District identified above: Georgia: two; 3rd District: one

Cancellation No. 97-74

CANCELLATION OF
DOLLAR AMOUNT OF DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY
Report Pursuant to the Line Item Veto Act, P.L. 104-130

Bill Citation: "Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998" (H.R. 2169)

1(A). Dollar Amount of Discretionary Budget Authority: $450 thousand for a transportation emergency preparedness and response demonstration project and evaluation on page 84 of House Report 105-313, dated October 7, 1997.

1(B). Determinations: This cancellation will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest.

1(C), (E). Reasons for Cancellation; Facts, Circumstances, and Considerations Relating to or Bearing Upon the Cancellation; and Estimated Effect of Cancellation on Objects, Purposes, and Programs: The majority of the earmarked funds ($400 thousand) would be used to assist in the establishment of an underground emergency transportation management center utilizing satellite communications. The center (to be located in Arab, Alabama) would be used by local, State and Federal emergency management agencies to coordinate assistance during emergency situations and as a disaster field office to coordinate long-term recovery programs. The remaining funds ($50 thousand) would be used: (1) to evaluate and report on the demonstration project in order to share information with other communities to help them to improve their emergency preparedness and response capabilities; and (2) to support administrative expenses incurred by the Department in carrying out the demonstration project. This project is being canceled for several reasons. The first is that the project is outside the scope of the Department's mission. Second, even if the funds were earmarked in a more appropriate agency, the project would not merit funding. Alabama already has an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that serves the entire State. This EOC was built just five years ago, with half of the cost funded by the Federal Government. An additional emergency response center in Arab or elsewhere in the State would be duplicative and unnecessary. Third, a disaster field office is typically established at a central point within the disaster area. A disaster field office at a fixed location such as Arab may not always provide a desirable point from which to carry out long-term recovery efforts.

1(D). Estimated Fiscal, Economic, and Budgetary Effect of Cancellation: As a result of the cancellation, Federal outlays will not increase, as specified below. This will have a commensurate effect on the Federal budget deficit and, to that extent, will have a beneficial effect on the economy.

Outlay Changes (in thousands of dollars)

FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	Total
-306	-144	-----	-----	-----	-450

1(F). Adjustments to Non-Defense Discretionary Spending Limits:
Budget authority: -$450 thousand in FY 1998
Outlays: The estimated outlay effect for each year is shown above.

Evaluation of Effects of These Adjustments upon Sequestration Procedures: If a sequestration were required, such sequestration would occur at levels that are reduced by the amounts above.

2(A). Agency: Department of Transportation
2(A). Bureau: Research and Special Programs Administration
2(A). Governmental Function/Project (Account): Emergency Preparedness and Response (Research and Special Programs)

2(B). States and Congressional Districts Affected: Alabama, 4th Congressional District

2(C). Total Number of Cancellations (inclusive) in Current Session in each State and District identified above: Alabama: three; 4th District: two