



A Brief Congressional “Dictionary”

The House and Senate each have committees and subcommittees to facilitate their work. The committees of special interest to passenger train advocates must approve or reject legislation that relates to Amtrak, intercity passenger trains, transit, regulation, and oversight.

Authorization

Authorizing committees recommend program funding levels—usually on a multi-year basis. They also set general rules under which programs operate, and provide legislative oversight. They can undertake special investigations of a particular program or agency.

- The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee authorizes all transportation programs.

- Transportation authorizing jurisdiction in the Senate is divided as follows:

- Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation: railroads (including Amtrak but not commuter rail); aviation;

- Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs: mass transit (including commuter rail);

- Senate Environment and Public Works: Highways.

Appropriations

House and Senate appropriations committees approve “real” funding for federal programs. The committees generally fol-

low guidelines set forth in authorization bills, but often provide less money than has been authorized.

Amtrak often has run just on appropriations, including Fiscal Years 2003-2008. During this period, the appropriations committees imposed some stringent “rules” on Amtrak, filling the vacuum left by absence of an authorization.

Highway spending for years largely bypassed the appropriations process, but the Highway Trust Fund deficit makes it doubtful this will continue.

Budget

House and Senate Budget Committees annually set funding levels by broad function. The goal, not always realized, is for House and Senate to reach agreement on a single budget resolution.

Tax Committees

The House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees handle legislation on taxation, changes in the tax code, and bonding authority. These committees would have to approve bonding programs, including any used to fund passenger train projects.

Other key terms

- “Markup” is the process by which committees and subcommittees debate, amend, and rewrite proposed legislation.

- (Senate only) Under the *cloture* rule,

Legislative Do’s and Don’ts

Legislators do listen to their constituents and take their views seriously. Here are some communications tips.

- **DO** keep your message brief and stick to one subject. Offices receive an overwhelming amount of correspondence; the shorter the message, the more likely you are to get a response.

- **DON’T** leave behind lots of printed matter when you visit a legislator’s office. Members and staff do not have time to read it. One-page bulleted summaries are useful.

- **DO** stay positive, even if your elected official is against Amtrak. *Never be insult-*

ing or threatening!

- **DO** be prepared to talk with a legislator’s staff or leave a brief but substantive message on his/her voicemail. Have some facts ready and follow up a phone call with a fax or E-mail with more details

- **DON’T** leave a voicemail with just your name and number. This prevents situations where the staff member doesn’t know your concern because he or she did not have time to return your call, or to do so in time for a key vote or other deadline.

- **DON’T** talk down to a legislator’s assistant. Some people wrongly assume

How to Use This Guide

This is our biannual list of members of Congressional committee and subcommittees most related to passenger trains and transit.

The full listing of committee assignments begins on page two. A list of ways to contact your elected officials and sample letter salutations are on page four.

To keep you up-to-date, our website, www.narprail.org, is changed as developments warrant. Be sure to check out our Action Alert section and weekly News Hotline, the latter normally updated on Friday afternoon.

the Senate may limit consideration of a pending matter to 30 additional hours, but only by vote of three-fifths of the full Senate, normally 60 votes.

- (House only) “Rule”: Before a bill goes to the floor, it gets a “rule” from the House Rules Committee, which indicates which if any amendments may be offered on the floor. A “closed rule” allows no amendments.

they are not being taken seriously when referred to an assistant. But staff generally play key roles in policy formulation and often know the subject better than their boss.

- **DO** keep an eye on your local media for “town hall” meetings or other forums with your elected officials. Attend and make your voice heard!

- **DON’T** be a microphone hog at such events. Keep your remarks brief.

- **DO** write letters to the editor in your state or district which respectfully mention a legislator’s name. That guarantees that his or her office will pay attention!

Key Transportation Committees in the 111th Congress

Committee chairs and Ranking Republican members **are shown in bold**. *Italic text indicates membership on the subcommittee*; ** indicates the Chair or Ranking Member of a Subcommittee. Full committee chairmen serve ex-officio on all subcommittees, except Senate Appropriations.

Senate Appropriations Committee

Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development

Democrats

Daniel K. Inouye, Hawaii

Robert C. Byrd, West Virginia

Patrick J. Leahy, Vermont

Tom Harkin, Iowa

Barbara A. Mikulski, Maryland

Herb Kohl, Wisconsin

*Patty Murray, Washington***

Byron Dorgan, North Dakota

Dianne Feinstein, California

Richard J. Durbin, Illinois

Tim Johnson, South Dakota

Mary L. Landrieu, Louisiana

Jack Reed, Rhode Island

Frank R. Lautenberg, New Jersey

Ben Nelson, Nebraska

Mark Pryor, Arkansas

Jon Tester, Montana

Republicans

Thad Cochran, Mississippi

Arlen Specter, Pennsylvania

*Christopher S. Bond, Missouri***

Mitch McConnell, Kentucky

Richard C. Shelby, Alabama

Judd Gregg, New Hampshire

Robert F. Bennett, Utah

Kay Bailey Hutchison, Texas

Sam Brownback, Kansas

Lamar Alexander, Tennessee

Susan Collins, Maine

George Voinovich, Ohio

Lisa Murkowski, Alaska

House Appropriations Committee

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Democrats

David R. Obey, Wisconsin, Chairman

John P. Murtha, Pennsylvania

Norman D. Dicks, Washington

Alan B. Mollohan, West Virginia

Marcy Kaptur, Ohio

Peter J. Visclosky, Indiana

Nita M. Lowey, New York

José E. Serrano, New York

Rosa L. DeLauro, Connecticut

James P. Moran, Virginia

*John W. Olver, Massachusetts***

Ed Pastor, Arizona

David E. Price, North Carolina

Chet Edwards, Texas

Patrick J. Kennedy, Rhode Island

Maurice D. Hinchey, New York

Lucille Roybal-Allard, California

Sam Farr, California

Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., Illinois

Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, Michigan

Allen Boyd, Florida

Chaka Fattah, Pennsylvania

Steven R. Rothman, New Jersey

Sanford D. Bishop Jr., Georgia

Marion Berry, Arkansas

Barbara Lee, California

Adam Schiff, California

Michael Honda, California

Betty McCollum, Minnesota

Steve Israel, New York

Tim Ryan, Ohio

C.A. "Dutch" Ruppersberger, Maryland

Ben Chandler, Kentucky

Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Florida

Ciro Rodriguez, Texas

Lincoln Davis, Tennessee

John T. Salazar, Colorado

Republicans

Jerry Lewis, California

C.W. Bill Young, Florida

Harold Rogers, Kentucky

Frank R. Wolf, Virginia

Jack Kingston, Georgia

Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, New Jersey

Todd Tiahrt, Kansas

Zach Wamp, Tennessee

*Tom Latham, Iowa***

Robert B. Aderholt, Alabama

Jo Ann Emerson, Missouri

Kay Granger, Texas

Michael K. Simpson, Idaho

John Abney Culberson, Texas

Mark Steven Kirk, Illinois

Ander Crenshaw, Florida

Dennis R. Rehberg, Montana

John R. Carter, Texas

Rodney Alexander, Louisiana

Ken Calvert, California

Jo Bonner, Alabama

Steven C. LaTourette, Ohio

Tom Cole, Oklahoma

Senate Commerce Committee (Amtrak authorization)

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security

Democrats

John D. Rockefeller, IV, West Virginia

Daniel K. Inouye, Hawaii

John F. Kerry, Massachusetts

Byron L. Dorgan, North Dakota

Barbara Boxer, California

Bill Nelson, Florida

Maria Cantwell, Washington

*Frank R. Lautenberg, New Jersey***

Mark Pryor, Arkansas

Claire McCaskill, Missouri

Amy Klobuchar, Minnesota

Tom Udall, New Mexico

Mark Warner, Virginia

Mark Begich, Alaska

Republicans

Kay Bailey Hutchison, Texas

Olympia J. Snowe, Maine

John Ensign, Nevada

Jim DeMint, South Carolina

John Thune, South Dakota

Roger Wicker, Mississippi

Johnny Isakson, Georgia

David Vitter, Louisiana

Sam Brownback, Kansas

Mel Martinez, Florida

Mike Johanns, Nebraska

Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs (transit authorization)

Subcommittee Housing and Transportation

Democrats

Christopher Dodd, Connecticut

Tim Johnson, South Dakota

Jack Reed, Rhode Island

*Charles E. Schumer, New York***

Evan Bayh, Indiana

Robert Menendez, New Jersey

Daniel K. Akaka, Hawaii

Sherrod Brown, Ohio

Jon Tester, Montana

Herb Kohl, Wisconsin

Mark Warner, Virginia

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Jeff Merkley, Oregon
Michael Bennett, Colorado

Republicans

Richard C. Shelby, Alabama

Robert F. Bennett, Utah
Jim Bunning, Kentucky
Kay Bailey Hutchison, Texas
*Mike Crapo, Idaho***
Mel Martinez, Florida
Bob Corker, Tennessee
Jim DeMint, South Carolina
David Vitter, Louisiana
Mike Johanns, Nebraska

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (highway authorization)

Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Democrats

Barbara Boxer, California

*Max Baucus, Montana***
Thomas R. Carper, Delaware
Frank R. Lautenberg, New Jersey
Benjamin L. Cardin, Maryland
Bernard Sanders, Vermont
Amy Klobuchar, Minnesota
Sheldon Whitehouse, Rhode Island
Tom Udall, New Mexico
Jeff Merkley, Oregon
Kirsten Gillibrand, New York

Republicans

James M. Inhofe, Oklahoma

*George V. Voinovich, Ohio***
David Vitter, Louisiana
John Barrasso, Wyoming
Arlen Specter, Pennsylvania
Mike Crapo, Idaho
Christopher S. Bond, Missouri
Lamar Alexander, Tennessee

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials

Democrats

James L. Oberstar, Minnesota

Nick J. Rahall, II, West Virginia
Peter A. DeFazio, Oregon
Jerry F. Costello, Illinois
Eleanor Holmes Norton, D.C.
Jerrold Nadler, New York
*Corrine Brown, Florida***
Bob Filner, California
Eddie Bernice Johnson, Texas
Gene Taylor, Mississippi
Elijah E. Cummings, Maryland
Ellen O. Tauscher, California
Leonard L. Boswell, Iowa
Tim Holden, Pennsylvania

Brian Baird, Washington
Rick Larsen, Washington
Michael E. Capuano, Massachusetts
Timothy H. Bishop, New York
Michael H. Michaud, Maine
Russ Carnahan, Missouri
Grace F. Napolitano, California
Daniel Lipinski, Illinois
Mazie Hirono, Hawaii
Jason Altmire, Pennsylvania
Timothy J. Walz, Minnesota
Heath Shuler, North Carolina
Michael A. Arcuri, New York
Harry E. Mitchell, Arizona
Christopher P. Carney, Pennsylvania
John J. Hall, New York
Steve Kagen, Wisconsin
Steve Cohen, Tennessee
Laura Richardson, California
Albio Sires, New Jersey
Donna F. Edwards, Maryland
Solomon P. Ortiz, Texas
Phil Hare, Illinois
John A. Boccieri, Ohio
Mark H. Schauer, Michigan
Betsy Markey, Colorado
Parker Griffith, Alabama
Michael E. McMahon, New York
Thomas S.P. Perriello, Virginia
Dina Titus, Nevada
Harry Teague, New Mexico

Republicans

John L. Mica, Florida

Don Young, Alaska
Thomas E. Petri, Wisconsin
Howard Coble, North Carolina
John J. Duncan, Jr., Tennessee
Vernon J. Ehlers, Michigan
Frank A. LoBiondo, New Jersey
Jerry Moran, Kansas
Gary G. Miller, California
Henry E. Brown, South Carolina
Timothy V. Johnson, Illinois
Todd Russell Platts, Pennsylvania
Sam Graves, Missouri
*Bill Shuster, Pennsylvania***
John Boozman, Arkansas
Shelley Moore Capito, West Virginia
Jim Gerlach, Pennsylvania
Mario Diaz-Balart, Florida
Charles W. Dent, Pennsylvania
Connie Mack, Florida
Lynn A. Westmoreland, Georgia
Jean Schmidt, Ohio
Candice S. Miller, Michigan
Mary Fallin, Oklahoma
Vern Buchanan, Florida
Robert E. Latta, Ohio
Brett Guthrie, Kentucky

Anh "Joseph" Cao, Louisiana
Aaron Schock, Illinois
Pete Olson, Texas

Senate Finance Committee

Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure

Democrats

Max Baucus, Montana

John D. Rockefeller, IV, West Virginia
Kent Conrad, North Dakota
*Jeff Bingaman, New Mexico***
John F. Kerry, Massachusetts
Blance L. Lincoln, Arkansas
Ron Wyden, Oregon
Charles E. Schumer, New York
Debbie Stabenow, Michigan
Maria Cantwell, Washington
Bill Nelson, Florida
Robert Menendez, New Jersey
Thomas Carper, Delaware

Republicans

Chuck Grassley, Iowa

Orrin G. Hatch, Utah
Olympia J. Snowe, Maine
Jon Kyl, Arizona
*Jim Bunning, Kentucky***
Mike Crapo, Idaho
Pat Roberts, Kansas
John Ensign, Nevada
Mike Enzi, Wyoming
John Cornyn, Texas

House Ways and Means Committee

Democrats

Charles B. Rangel, New York

Fortney Pete Stark, California
Sander M. Levin, Michigan
Jim McDermott, Washington
John Lewis, Georgia
Richard E. Neal, Massachusetts
John S. Tanner, Tennessee
Xavier Becerra, California
Lloyd Doggett, Texas
Earl Pomeroy, North Dakota
Mike Thompson, California
John B. Larson, Connecticut
Earl Blumenauer, Oregon
Ron Kind, Wisconsin
Bill Pascrell Jr., New Jersey
Shelley Berkley, Nevada
Joseph Crowley, New York
Chris Van Hollen, Maryland
Kendrick Meek, Florida
Allyson Y. Schwartz, Pennsylvania
Artur Davis, Alabama
Danny K. Davis, Illinois
Bob Etheridge, North Carolina

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Contact Your Elected Officials!

The shaded box at right contains contact information for your House and Senate members, as well as the White House. Ever since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and subsequent anthrax poison scares in Congressional office buildings, delivery of U.S. Mail is severely delayed. We do not recommend sending mail to the Washington offices of your Members of Congress. Instead, use their district offices, make a phone call, or

send a FAX or e-mail.

Below is a sample heading for your communications and salutation.

Always include your mailing address—even if faxing or e-mailing your message—to prove you are a constituent.

Don't forget to read the "Legislative Do's and Don'ts" on the first page of this document.

Proper Salutations for Congress and the President

The Honorable John Doe
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Doe:

Sincerely,

Your Name

The Honorable Jane Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Brown:

Sincerely,

Your Name

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Sincerely,

Your Name

Remember to include your mailing address!

The United States Congress

Capitol Hill Switchboard (both chambers): **202-224-3121 or 225-3121**

House website: **www.house.gov**

Senate website: **www.senate.gov**

• To send an e-mail to a legislator, visit his or her web site.

• If you do not have internet access, the "Blue Pages" of your telephone book should have addresses and phone numbers for your Members' District Offices.

The White House

Comment Line: **202-456-1111**

Fax: **202-456-2461**

E-mail:

comments@whitehouse.gov

Lloyd Doggett, Texas
Earl Blumenauer, Oregon
Marion Berry, Arkansas
Allen Boyd, Florida
James P. McGovern, Massachusetts
Niki Tsongas, Massachusetts
Bob Etheridge, North Carolina
Betty McCollum, Minnesota
Charlie Melancon, Louisiana
John Yarmuth, Kentucky
Rob Andrews, New Jersey
Rosa DeLauro, Connecticut
Chet Edwards, Texas
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, Virginia
Jim Langevin, Rhode Island
Rick Larsen, Washington
Tim Bishop, New York
Gwen Moore, Wisconsin
Gerald Connolly, Virginia
Kurt Schrader, Oregon

Republicans

Paul Ryan, Wisconsin

Jeb Hensarling, Texas
Scott Garrett, New Jersey
Mario Diaz-Balart, Florida
Michael K. Simpson, Idaho
Patrick T. McHenry, North Carolina
Connie Mack, Florida
John Campbell, California
Jim Jordan, Ohio
Cynthia M. Lummis, Wyoming
Steve Austria, Ohio
Robert B. Aderholt, Alabama
Devin Nunes, California
Gregg Harper, Mississippi

Committee Members from page 3

Linda T. Sanchez, California
Brian Higgins, New York
John A. Yarmuth, Kentucky

Republicans

Dave Camp, Michigan

Wally Herger, California
Sam Johnson, Texas
Kevin Brady, Texas
Paul Ryan, Wisconsin
Eric Cantor, Virginia
John Linder, Georgia
Devin Nunes, California
Pat Tiberi, Ohio
Ginny Brown-Waite, Florida
Geoff Davis, Kentucky
Dave G. Reichert, Washington
Charles W. Boustany Jr., Louisiana
Dean Heller, Nevada
Peter J. Roskam, Illinois

Senate Budget Committee

Democrats

Kent Conrad, North Dakota

Patty Murray, Washington
Ron Wyden, Oregon
Russell D. Feingold, Wisconsin

Robert C. Byrd, West Virginia
Bill Nelson, Florida
Debbie Stabenow, Michigan
Robert Menendez, New Jersey
Benjamin L. Cardin, Maryland
Bernie Sanders, Vermont
Sheldon Whitehouse, Rhode Island
Mark R. Warner, Virginia
Jeff Merkley, Oregon

Republicans

Judd Gregg, New Hampshire

Chuck Grassley, Iowa
Michael B. Enzi, Wyoming
Jeff Sessions, Alabama
Jim Bunning, Kentucky
Mike Crapo, Idaho
John Ensign, Nevada
John Cornyn, Texas
Lindsey Graham, South Carolina
Lamar Alexander, Tennessee

House Budget Committee

Democrats

John M. Spratt, Jr., South Carolina

Allyson Y. Schwartz, Pennsylvania
Marcy Kaptur, Ohio
Xavier Becerra, California