

MOBILE - Congressman Jo Bonner, R-Alabama, today announced that \$10 million has been included in the House of Representatives version of the Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU), a six-year surface transportation reauthorization which passed by a vote of 417-9. This funding will be used for the extension of Highway 83 north to Interstate 10.

“I am very pleased the House has included \$10 million for Highway 83 in its version of the TEA-LU legislation. The extension of this important north-south highway has been a priority for local officials for many years, and this funding is vital for the completion of further work on the highway and for improvements that will make traveling on it safer for commercial and private vehicle traffic alike.

Highway 83 will play an important role in not only attracting future industrial and economic development in this region of Alabama, but will also provide greater access to an efficient evacuation route in the event of hurricanes and other natural disasters.

I am hopeful the Senate will take quick action on this bill.”

The TEA-LU legislation, which was passed by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on March 2, 2005, provides \$284 billion in federal highway, transit, and road safety projects through 2009. The funding would be distributed among such agencies as the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the National Traffic and Highway Safety Administration, and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.