

NEWS FROM SENATOR TIM JOHNSON and SENATOR TOM DASCHLE

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Funding for South Dakota Projects in Transportation and Treasury Department Appropriations Bill Clears Hurdle in Congress *Legislation Now Awaits Consideration in House and Senate*

Washington, DC – Senators Tom Daschle and Tim Johnson announced today that the conference committee drafting the 2004 Omnibus Appropriations bill has included \$22.85 million for South Dakota projects as part of the 2004 Transportation and Treasury Department Appropriations bill. The Transportation-Treasury bill was included in the Omnibus bill after Republican leaders failed to meet the September 30, 2003 deadline for passing appropriations bills.

The legislation was filed in the House of Representatives and now awaits consideration in the House and Senate. The Omnibus bill is the subject of significant debate following the addition of extraneous measures to the bill and the elimination of provisions previously approved by both houses of Congress. Senators Daschle and Johnson pledged to maintain funding for South Dakota projects in the final legislation, whatever form that may take.

“Improving roads and highways in South Dakota is an important part of encouraging economic growth and development,” said Senator Daschle. “These projects will significantly aid our state and I will do all that I can to protect funding for these projects.”

“When this project is completed, the new highway system will improve access to communities, recreation and tourist sites, and enhance economic development for the Black Hills area and a good portion of Southwestern S.D.,” said Johnson, member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Below, you will find a list of South Dakota projects funded in the bill:

Location	Project	Funding
Sioux Falls	Construction of the Madison Street - I-29 Interchange	\$5,000,000
Rapid City	Reconstruction of exit 60 on Interstate 90	\$5,100,000
Cheyenne River Reservation	Federal Transit Administration bus service	\$2,250,000
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Pine Ridge Reservation	Reconstruction of BIA Route 27	\$3,000,000
Bennett County	Reconstruction of Allen Road	\$2,000,000
Brookings	Testing of aviation grade ethanol fuel at South Dakota State University	\$1,000,000
Yankton	Replacement of the Meridian Bridge	\$2,000,000
Statewide	Federal Transit Administration bus service	\$2,000,000
Maverick Junction- Nebraska	Continued construction of the Heartland Expressway	\$250,000

Total

\$22,850,000