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Ohio House Passes Transportation Budget to Create 20,000 New Jobs
Invests in Roads and Bridges; Creates Jobs for Ohioans

COLUMBUS – State Representative Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Heights) and the Ohio House of Representatives voted today to approve the state’s Transportation Budget. The measure received bipartisan support by a vote of 70-29.

The budget invests \$9.2 billion in Ohio’s roads and bridges, including federal economic stimulus resources.

The budget paves the way for approximately \$2 billion in federal economic stimulus to begin flowing into Ohio’s economy to create jobs. It also preserves the opportunity for Ohio to secure federal resources for a passenger rail line that would connect many of Ohio’s major cities.

Speaker of the House Armond Budish said he is very happy with provisions for a passenger rail system, calling the plan a “sensible compromise that will put Ohio in a better position to secure federal resources for a passenger rail line between Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and cities in between. This rail project can be a huge economic generator.”

In addition, the bill provides immediate relief to out-of-work Ohioans by extending healthcare benefits for 6 additional months. This will result in an estimated savings of over \$4,000 for an Ohio family.

“This bill will help so many residents in our district,” said Rep. Yuko. “The federal resources that will be allocated through this bill will create short term and long term jobs that we desperately need. This will in turn, help people stay in their homes and decrease the soaring foreclosure rates in our communities.”

With Senate passage of the bill, it now goes to Governor Ted Strickland for his signature.