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Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget Reacts to Senate Highway Bill July 22, 2015

The Senate is currently considering a six-year Highway bill, along with a package of offsets to fully fund the first three years of spending in the bill.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget is encouraged by this effort to fund highway costs with real offsets.

"It's refreshing to see Congress focus on a multi-year solution instead of just another short-term patch," said Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. "And for the most part, this is a fiscally responsible bill that relies on some pretty solid offsets."

The legislation includes a \$47 billion general revenue transfer into the Highway Trust Fund, paid for by reducing dividends paid by the Federal Reserve to member banks, selling a portion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, extending various user fees, improving tax compliance, and other changes.

"While we welcome these offsets, this bill still fails to provide a structural fix to bring highway spending and revenue in line," MacGuineas said. "It also puts the cart before the horse by calling for six years of increased spending and paying for only the first three, which will require future lawmakers to identify pay-fors and create pressure for a future bailout. The bill would be much improved by including a complete package of offsets, preferably offsets that truly close the program's structural gap."

[Click here to see the list of offsets.](#)

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