

Republicans slam \$547B 'my way or the highway bill'

By Tanya Snyder

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House Republicans immediately pounced Friday in opposition to Democrats' new \$547 billion surface transportation bill, charging that the majority party shut out GOP input in crafting the measure that echoes President Joe Biden's proposals.

Dubbing the legislation the "My Way or the Highway Bill 2.0," Republican leaders on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee said the five-year measure [rolled out Friday morning](#) "doubles down on the same mandates, restrictive policies, and costly diversions of infrastructure resources that led to last year's failure to provide long-term investments in America's roads and bridges."

The new bill "moves even further to the left" than the surface transportation measure that passed the House last year, [H.R. 2 \(116\)](#), but was never considered in the Senate, ranking Republican [Sam Graves](#) (R-Mo.) wrote in a statement, along with Republican subcommittee leaders [Rodney Davis](#) of Illinois, [Rick Crawford](#) of Arkansas and [Garret Graves](#) of Louisiana.

Republican criticism: The GOP lawmakers said they wished House Democrats had developed the bill through a bipartisan process, like the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee did in crafting the \$311 billion bill, [S. 1931 \(117\)](#), the panel approved 20-0 last week.

"The Majority never seriously considered incorporating Republican priorities and reaching a compromise," the Republicans wrote.

The bill: Highways and Transit Subcommittee Chair [Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton](#) (D-D.C.) and Rail Subcommittee Chair [Donald Payne](#) Jr. (D-N.J.) introduced the new surface transportation bill, which would authorize \$343 billion for roads, bridges and safety, as well as \$109 billion on transit and \$95 billion on freight and passenger rail. The measure prioritizes the reduction of carbon emission, maintenance of existing road infrastructure over new capacity and improving access for low-income communities, both urban and rural.

What's next: The House panel will mark up the bill on Wednesday. [Read the text here.](#)