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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** [Neal A. Patel](mailto:neal_patel@heller.senate.gov)/[Michawn Rich](mailto:michawn_rich@heller.senate.gov) | | November 5, 2015 | 202-224-6244 |   **Heller’s I-11 Extension Passes House of Representatives**  *Legislation one step closer to becoming a reality*  **(Washington, DC)**– Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed [*the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015*](http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20151102/CPRT-114-HPRT-RU00-AIHighways.pdf)(The STRR Act), their multi-year surface transportation bill. Included in this legislation was [Senator Heller’s bill](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=f0b7befb-61f2-44d1-ab0d-be49ae502e2a) to extend the future Interstate 11 (I-11) from Las Vegas through the State of Nevada to Interstate 80 (I-80). This is an important step in the legislative process as the I-11 extension is one step closer to hitting the President’s desk to be signed in to law. Following House passage, Senator Heller offered this statement:  “Today’s House passage of the I-11 extension is very exciting news for the State of Nevada, and I am proud to see this project moving closer to becoming a reality. Not only does this extension have the potential to open even more markets for tourism and trade, it means good paying jobs and an economic boost Nevadans are eager to see,” said **Senator Dean Heller**. “Enacting a multi-year highway bill is important to our nation’s long-term economic competitiveness, and I continue to coordinate closely with our congressional delegation to ensure this important Nevada initiative is maintained in any final bill.”  The House and Senate will now work to rectify the differences between the two transportation bills, the DRIVE Act and the STRR Act. It is important to note that both bills include the I-11 extension. The authorization for all federal highway and transit programs expires on November 20th.  **Background:**  Heller’s legislation, [introduced in March](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=f0b7befb-61f2-44d1-ab0d-be49ae502e2a), ensures the future I-11 is connected to Northern Nevada, giving it a key role as an international trade route. Specifically, the *Intermountain West Corridor Development Act of 2015* (S. 842) provides both Arizona’s and Nevada’s Departments of Transportation the flexibility to develop a Northern Nevada connectivity corridor and a Southern Arizona connectivity corridor as part of the I-11 effort. This full north-to-south, Canada-to-Mexico interstate system is critical for our nation’s mobility, economy, and national defense. An in-depth look at the legislation, including a map, is available [HERE](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=f0b7befb-61f2-44d1-ab0d-be49ae502e2a).  In July, the [U.S. Senate passed S. 842 as part of the Highway Bill](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=2ade13aa-d58f-40b8-8bbd-88a826ae33da), otherwise known as the *Developing a Reliable and Innovative Vision for the Economy Act* (*DRIVE Act*), with Senator Heller’s support.  As a member of three of the four Senate Committees responsible for developing transportation legislation, Senator Heller has long advocated for the extension of I-11. Last year, at a Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee hearing, Senator Heller urged Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx to support the designation of I-11 from Las Vegas to Northern Nevada. In response, [Secretary Foxx committed to working with Heller to help secure this designation.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZI1isB5n_KE)  ###  [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_fb.png](http://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Senator-Dean-Heller/325751330177) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_tw.png](http://twitter.com/SenDeanHeller) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_yt.png](http://www.youtube.com/user/SenDeanHeller) |