

The Honorable James L. Oberstar, Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, United States House of Representatives

Born in Chisholm, Minnesota, Jim Oberstar graduated Summa Cum Laude from the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul in 1956, where he earned degrees in French and Political Science. He went on to earn a Masters degree in Comparative Government at the College of Europe in Belgium in 1957. After graduation, he taught languages in Haiti from 1959-1963.

Mr. Oberstar's involvement in economic development issues dates back four decades -- first as Administrative Assistant to his predecessor in the House, Rep. John A. Blatnik, and, since 1975, as a Member of Congress. He went on to serve as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Development. Now the longest serving Representative in Minnesota's history, he realized a life-long dream in January 2007 when he became the Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.