

Congressman Rothman Announces Recovery Act Rail Funding for New Jersey

(Washington, DC) - Congressman Steve Rothman (D – NJ), a member of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee, today announced new federal grant funding for rail transportation provided through the 2009 Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the Stimulus Bill). The money will be used to help New Jersey Transit modernize and improve its fixed guideway system, enhance track rehabilitation, repair rail cars and continue the interlocking project on the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail.

“I am pleased that \$66 million in Stimulus Bill money will be coming to New Jersey to allow our indispensable commuter rail system to continue running,” said Rothman. “By maintaining our commuter trains in a state of good repair we can help alleviate congestion on our roads, minimize the negative impact on our environment and this federal funding will help prevent an increase in local property taxes. In addition, the work to repair the rail cars will be done in Kearny, keeping jobs in our region.”

The three major areas that will be funded by this Recovery Act money are:

Enhanced Track Rehabilitation Project - The project involves installation of ties on New Jersey Transit’s Atlantic City, Montclair and Main Lines; Replacement of rail on New Jersey Transit’s Morristown Line; Replacement of switches in Hoboken Terminal; and system-wide track improvements.

Commuter Rail Rolling Stock Rehabilitation Project - Repairs and replacement of major systems within New Jersey Transit’s passenger car fleet as well as the diesel and electric locomotive fleet. The car system rehabilitation includes electric propulsion, HVAC, cab signal, air brake, wheel axle, truck overhaul, electric door controls, toilets, display unit and other electric components. Locomotive systems rehabilitation includes main engines, head end power units, air compressors, generators, alternators, brake assemblies, pantographs, transformers, terminal boards, electric switches gears, cooling fans and unit cylinder power assemblies. This will all be done at their Maintenance Meadows Complex facility Rail Yard in Kearny, NJ.

Hudson-Bergen Light Rail Danforth Interlocking Project - Construction of additional track, switches, catenary and signals along the Bayonne Branch of New Jersey Transit’s Hudson-Bergen Light Rail System in Jersey City and Bayonne. The work will allow New Jersey Transit to provide additional capacity and flexibility in Hudson-Bergen Light Rail operations.

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