

A Win For New Jersey: Rothman Named To Powerful House Appropriations Subcommittee On Transportation

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Position Gives Congressman Greater Ability To Secure Federal Dollars For New Jersey's Transportation Needs

Washington, DC - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9), a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, today was named to that panel's newly created Subcommittee on Transportation and Treasury, making him the first New Jersey Member of Congress on the critical House subcommittee. The subcommittee assignment puts Rothman in a much greater position to secure federal funds for New Jersey's transportation needs, including road and rail improvements.

"I am proud to become a member of the new House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Treasury, which will allow me to bring home more federal dollars for New Jersey's aging transportation infrastructure," Rothman said. "New Jerseyans depend on our roads and rails to get efficiently and safely to work, school, and weekend fun. Additionally, businesses, which are dependent upon products and services being delivered quickly, will benefit greatly from an improved transportation network that will free our roads and rails of congestion."

The House Appropriations Transportation and Treasury Subcommittee assignment gives Rothman oversight over the U.S. Department of Transportation, which has a proposed budget of \$54.3 billion for next year, and jurisdiction over not only the nation's highways, but also Amtrak and the FAA, which regulates the nation's airports.

"Improving New Jersey's transportation network will enhance our quality of life and relieve the frustration of millions of our people who spend countless hours stuck in their cars waiting for traffic to let up or packed like sardines on overcrowded buses and trains," Rothman said. "New transportation initiatives will also create jobs for the thousands of New Jersey residents who will build these projects."

Rothman has already had numerous successes securing federal funds for New Jersey's transportation initiatives. As part of the 2002 budget, Rothman secured \$300,000 to ease traffic congestion along Route 17, \$1 million to prevent flooding on Route 46 and Main Street in Lodi, \$2.35 million for the development of light rail in Bergen County, \$12.5 million to redesign New York and New Jersey airspace, and \$141 million to fund the development of the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail project. Congress is scheduled to approve the 2003 budget later this week, which is expected to include millions more that Rothman has worked to put in place for New Jersey's transportation projects.

Rothman also retained his assignment on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, which determines how all of our nation's foreign aid is allocated. Rothman stated that foreign assistance must become more of a priority for the U.S. in order to prevent future threats to our nation's security and to combat instability in poor countries around the world. U.S. foreign assistance provides developing countries with the means and guidance to improve health and education systems, anti-corruption practices, and democratic institution building that will lead to greater stability and security in the developing world.

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