

Rothman Secures Millions to Ease Traffic Congestion, Cut Aircraft Noise

November 30, 2001

Rothman Secures Millions to Ease Traffic Congestion, Cut Aircraft Noise
House approves measures to reduce Route 17 & Route 46 traffic, develop light rail, redesign local airspace

Hackensack, NJ -- In an effort to ease traffic congestion and cut aircraft noise in one of the most densely populated regions of the country, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today secured federal funds for several Northern New Jersey transportation projects. The House of Representatives today approved the Transportation Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2002, which includes \$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.

The 1.9 mile stretch of Route 17 between Fairview Avenue in Paramus and Essex Street in Hackensack is the only part of the heavily traveled highway with only two lanes. This causes severe congestion at Route 17's interchange with Passaic Street, and long back-ups on Passaic Street as well. Using his position as a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Rothman secured \$300,000 to conduct a final engineering design of how to solve the situation.

"Everyone who has ever driven on Route 17 knows that two lanes is not sufficient to handle normal traffic, especially during rush-hour," Rothman said. "These funds will allow engineers to develop the best plan to alleviate Route 17 traffic congestion, and relieve the frustration that thousands of New Jersey residents experience each day as they are stuck in their cars waiting for traffic to let up."

Additionally, Rothman secured \$1 million for drainage and safety improvements at Route 46 and Main Street in Lodi. Among the items that will be constructed there are detention basins and retaining walls.

"As the thousands of Lodi residents and others who use that intersection know, nightmare traffic backups can occur regularly whenever heavy rains hit the area," Rothman said.

Rothman also secured \$2.35 million to allow engineers to begin work on a series of light rail stations, regional park-n-rides, and a variety of infrastructure elements such as bridges, tunnels, signals, transfers, and shuttle service links. Additionally, Rothman helped secure \$141 million as part of the federal government's commitment to the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail project. Currently, rail service extends as far north as Newport area of Jersey City, with service expected to reach Hoboken in 2002.

"As one of the most densely populated regions in the entire country, Northern New Jersey is very much in need of light rail to relieve congestion on our roads and to improve the quality of life for Bergen and Hudson County residents," Rothman said.

Also under the Transportation Appropriations bill, Rothman worked with budget leaders to provide \$12.5 million for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to redesign local airspace. Rothman has strongly encouraged the FAA to redesign airplane routes for all New York Metropolitan airports to cut down on aircraft noise over Northern New Jersey.

"It is my hope that the FAA will create modifications to local airspace and in the process reduce the aircraft noise that too many North Jersey residents are subjected to hearing on a daily basis," Rothman said.

The Transportation Appropriations bill is one of 13 spending bills that Congress is required to pass each year. Following Senate approval, which is anticipated in the coming days, the measure will head to the White House where the president is expected to sign it into law.

###

[Go back](#)