

## Rothman Secures \$ 6 Million To Relieve Northern New Jersey Traffic Congestion

November 23, 2004

Rothman Secures \$6 Million To Relieve  
Northern New Jersey Traffic Congestion  
Federal Funds Will Pay For Widening Of Route 17,  
Increased Access To Bergen County Mass Transit

Washington, DC - In a victory for the people of Northern New Jersey, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) today announced that he has secured a total of \$6 million in federal funds to relieve traffic congestion in the area. Rothman used his position on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation to obtain the money, which will pay for the widening of Route 17 and increased access to mass transit in Bergen County.

"Northern New Jersey residents live in one of the most densely crowded regions in the most densely populated state, which is why it is so critical that we have a transportation network that gets people where they need to go quickly, efficiently, and safely," Rothman said. "For far too long Route 17 has been a source of great frustration for Northern New Jerseyans who are forced to sit there, in bumper-to-bumper traffic, on a regular basis. These funds will both help widen Route 17 to allow traffic to flow smoother and also provide new, access to mass transit alternatives."

Of the \$4 million for work to expand Route 17, \$2 million will be used to widen the Essex Street bridge over Route 17 so that more lanes can fit under that overpass. Another \$2 million will also go toward designing and engineering a broader solution to Route 17 congestion between its intersection with Essex Street and Route 4. The State of New Jersey recently labeled the expansion of Route 17 as a priority transportation project.

The \$6 million in funds also includes \$2 million for preliminary engineering, design, and analysis of new mass transit stations that can connect existing commuter rail corridors, highways, and bus service. Engineers will also work on developing park-n-rides, and a variety of infrastructure elements such as bridges, tunnels, signals, transfers, and shuttle service links throughout the county.

"In addition to helping relieve traffic congestion in Northern New Jersey, these federal funds will save state and local property taxpayers \$6 million from the cost of these needed improvements to our area's transportation infrastructure," Rothman said.

These funds that Rothman secured to relieve traffic congestion in Northern New Jersey are part of the Transportation Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2005. The House and Senate both passed the measure on November 20. Over the previous three years, Rothman has obtained \$3.9 million to widen Route 17 and \$6.85 million for rail stations and park-n-rides in Bergen County.

###

[Go back](#)