

Rothman Gets \$ 5.75 Million In Federal Funds To Relieve Bergen County Highway Congestion

February 4, 2004

Rothman Gets \$5.75 Million In Federal Funds

To Relieve Bergen County Highway Congestion

Money Will Help Widen Route 17, Expand Bergen Rail Service

Washington, DC - As part of his continuing effort to improve the quality of life for Bergen County residents, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today announced that he recently secured \$5.75 million in federal funds to relieve traffic congestion on Bergen County highways. Rothman, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, convinced his colleagues of the need for the traffic congestion relief funds. The money is included in the final spending bill for Fiscal Year 2004 that President Bush signed into law in January.

"These federal transportation funds are very much needed in Bergen County where residents are forced on a daily basis to deal with excessive traffic, which wastes their precious time and degrades their quality of life," Rothman said. "We need to improve our highways, especially Route 17, so that traffic can flow smoothly and residents are not subjected to bumper-to-bumper roadway congestion on our major highways. At the same time, we must offer more reliable, efficient, affordable, and comfortable rail and bus options. With more people using these mass transit alternatives, there will be fewer cars on our roadways, which will also help ease highway congestion and reduce air pollution."

Rothman secured \$3.5 million for work on expanding Route 17 to allow traffic to flow more freely. Specifically, funds will be used to widen the Essex Street bridge over Route 17 so that more lanes can fit under the overpass. The funds will also go toward designing and engineering a broader solution to Route 17 congestion between its intersection with Route 3 all the way up to Linwood Avenue in Ridgewood.

In addition, the measure included another \$2.25 million for preliminary engineering, design, and analysis of new 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, which could include elements of new rail service to the redeveloped Meadowlands Arena site.

"I am very pleased that I was able to get my colleagues in Congress to approve these funds to help relieve traffic congestion in Bergen County and improve the quality of life for the people of this region," Rothman said. "These federal funds also relieve local taxpayers from having to cover the full cost of these transportation infrastructure improvements."

In Fiscal Years 2002 and 2003, Rothman used his position on the House Appropriations Committee to secure \$4.6 million for rail stations and park-n-rides in Bergen County and \$400,000 to relieve traffic congestion on Route 17.

###

[Go back](#)