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Worked To Get Federal Government To Commit More

Terrorism Preparedness Funds To New Jersey

Washington, DC - In an effort to ensure that New Jersey's transportation infrastructure is protected from possible terrorist attacks, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) and Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ11) today announced that they helped secure a \$2.8 million federal, homeland security grant for NJ Transit. The funds, which come from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), will spare New Jersey property and state taxpayers from the full cost of NJ Transit's terrorism preparedness initiatives. Rothman and Frelinghuysen have consistently worked with DHS to allocate more funds to New Jersey.

"While it is more than two years since the September 11th terrorist attacks, it is vitally important that we continue to provide state and local governments and agencies responsible for securing key infrastructure, including NJ Transit, with the federal resources they need for increased homeland security costs," Rothman said. "I am gratified that the Department of Homeland Security rightly recognized that the state's proximity to the New York Metropolitan area means that New Jersey must constantly maintain a high level of alert and preparedness, and should therefore receive a disproportionate share of the federal assistance available to safeguard critical infrastructure and the public. Government's first responsibility is to protect the people, which is why I am so delighted to have worked with Representative Frelinghuysen to bring back these federal funds to New Jersey to help with our homeland security efforts."

Frelinghuysen said, "Ensuring the safety and security of New Jersey is our top priority. With this increased federal homeland security funding, today, our residents should know that we are continuing to implement stronger security measures to protect NJ Transit's riders from the dangers and threats of terrorism. Moving hundreds of thousands of commuters and visitors everyday, NJ Transit remains a critical part of our state and region's mass transportation infrastructure. It must continue to be protected. I appreciate the opportunity to work with Rep. Rothman to secure this funding."

The \$2.8 million grant for NJ Transit is funded through the Department of Homeland Security's Urban Areas Security Initiative, which provides funds to first responders and public safety agencies in high-density urban areas and high threat areas to secure critical infrastructure and respond to potential acts of terrorism. NJ Transit will use these funds to install additional security cameras on rail bridges, upgrade communications equipment, and buy additional protective security gear for NJ Transit personnel.

Rothman and Frelinghuysen, the only two New Jersey Members of Congress on the House Appropriations Committee, worked closely with the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge earlier this year to allocate more funds

to New Jersey given its proximity to New York City and the state's own critical infrastructure. NJ Transit ranks third nationwide in the most number of passenger miles under one state transit agency's jurisdiction.

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