

Congressman Rothman Announces Federal Appropriation For Hackensack Streetscape Improvements

For Immediate Release

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-- Rep. Rothman Secures Funding To Provide Amenities

To Hackensack's Historic Central Business District --

(Hackensack, NJ) - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) today announced that he had successfully secured \$72,750 in federal funding for the City of Hackensack Downtown Streetscape Renovation project. "This funding will serve to improve customer and pedestrian access and attract more visitors to Hackensack's vibrant downtown commercial district. The resulting streetscape improvements will include amenities such as new sidewalks, upgraded street lighting, seating for pedestrians, and enhancements to the surrounding landscaping," said Representative Rothman. Congressman Rothman announced the funding at a news conference earlier today on Hackensack's Historic Green while accompanied by a bevy of local officials and civic leaders, including Mayor John "Jack" Zisa.

"The Downtown Streetscape Renovation Project will provide a critical boost to the City's ongoing efforts to attract visitors to three key commercial corridors that join at the County Court House and the Historic Green. The convergence of Essex Street, Hudson Street, and Main Street constitutes the core of Hackensack's central business district, and these amenities will complement the civic improvement efforts of Mayor Zisa, the City Council, and area businesses," said Congressman Rothman. "This funding also saves Hackensack property taxpayers money by allowing federal money to replace local tax dollars that would have had to have been raised in order to pay for this capital project," noted Representative Rothman.

Congressman Rothman noted the historic significance of the site, observing that it was not only the core of Hackensack's business district and the seat of Bergen County government, but also had played a significant role in the history of New Jersey and the original thirteen colonies. "This is one of the first places in New Jersey to have been explored by Europeans arriving in the New World in the seventeenth century. And in November of 1776, Hackensack, which was then but a small village centered on this very Green, served as the site of the headquarters of General George Washington, with his army actually camped on the Green. It was here that General Washington surveyed local roads and bridges in order to successfully evade a numerically overwhelming force of British and Hessian troops, a maneuver which enabled him to secure the first major American victory of the Revolution the following month at the Battle of Trenton," he said.

Congressman Rothman concluded his remarks by noting the strategic benefits accruing to Bergen County by virtue of his assignment on the powerful House Appropriations Committee. "I am truly grateful that I have been afforded the

opportunity to be the first House Member representing Bergen County to be named to the Appropriations Committee in the long history of the United States Congress. I am fortunate to be able to use my influence on the Appropriations Committee to help the residents of our cities and towns improve their quality of life in concrete and tangible ways."

The federal funding for the City of Hackensack Downtown Streetscape Renovation project was included in the section of the Fiscal Year 2005 Omnibus appropriations bill that provides funding for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, among other agencies.