

## Transportation and Infrastructure: Improving Mobility, Improving Quality of Life

Transportation touches every facet of our lives. If any part of the transportation system breaks down, we feel the impact immediately. Investment in our transportation modes is vital to enhancing our economy, increasing our safety, maintaining our global competitiveness, and most importantly improving our quality of life. With the rising cost of gas and concerns about global warming, smart investments in our transportation infrastructure can help to ease these burdens. Through my work on the House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I am actively working on transportation issues that are important to our district.

### Highways:

To prevent a potential \$14 billion cut in federal highway investment and a loss of more than 10,000 well-paying, New Jersey jobs, I voted for H.R. 6532, the Highway Trust Fund Restoration Act. H.R. 6532 prevented a projected shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund by restoring \$8 billion to the Trust Fund. The House passed the bill with overwhelming support on July 23, 2008.

### Bridges:

Given concerns in the past year regarding the safety of our nation's bridges, I voted for and the House passed H.R. 3999, the National Highway Bridge Reconstruction and Inspection Act which would aid in New Jersey's efforts to maintain our state's bridges, H.R. 3999 would strengthen bridge inspection requirements and authorize \$42 million for the reconstruction of structurally deficient bridges in New Jersey. These funds will be used to help maintain bridges such as the historic Pulaski Skyway, which opened in 1932 as part of one of the first superhighways in the United States. The Skyway continues to carry four lanes of the Route 1/9 traffic over the Hackensack River and requires \$10 million of renovation work.

### Transit and Rail:

Funding for transit and rail is also a priority for me because it is a more affordable and an environmentally-friendly transportation alternative. On June 26, 2008, the House passed H.R. 6052, the Saving Energy through Public Transportation Act of 2008, which would help to reduce dependence on foreign oil by encouraging more people to use transit. It would authorize \$93 million for New Jersey to reduce transit fares and expand transit services. The House also passed H.R. 6003, Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act, which would invest in modernizing and improving Amtrak train services.

Additionally, the House is preparing for the 2009 Highway and Transit Reauthorization, which will authorize the Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 5-year period from 2009 - 2014. Mass transit and public transportation projects will be a major focus of this legislation. I am working to secure funding for much needed transit projects in our district, such as the ARC project to expand trans-Hudson rail capacity and the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail, which links the growing cities of the Hudson River waterfront and connects to ferries, PATH, and commuter rail.

### Aviation

With the proximity of the Newark Liberty International Airport to the 13th District of New Jersey, I am committed to protecting the workers and the customers of Newark Airport. As the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) pushes extensive airspace redesign and proposes congestion pricing schemes, Congressional oversight is essential, and I have been working with my colleagues to ensure that the FAA hears the concerns of the people of New Jersey. I believe we all deserve air travel that is safe, reliable and affordable.