

Rochester, NY – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) and Mayor Tom Richards today proclaimed their support for the proposed design of a new intermodal train and intercity bus station in downtown Rochester which would replace the 34-year-old station originally built to be a temporary structure.

Renderings put forth by Bergmann Associates were today praised by both Slaughter and Richards. The design is a modern interpretation of one of the early stations in Rochester, Union Station or the Bragdon Station as it was also known, which opened in 1914. Last month, the second public meeting was held seeking input on the plans. Both meetings were well attended with many community stakeholder groups represented. Community support for the new station has been strong. The scoping study was possible thanks to \$1.4 million Slaughter secured for planning in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Once the scoping study is complete this summer design and engineering of the new station will begin immediately. This work was also funded through ARRA monies that Slaughter secured.

Slaughter and Richards wrote in support of New York State DOT's application for TIGER funding to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood outlining the benefits of the station as a job creator and today said they hope the federal funding for construction comes through. In March Slaughter brought together business, education and transportation stakeholders who joined the Mayor advocating the project to LaHood.

[In her letter of support for the project, Slaughter wrote,](#)

"This regionally significant project with broad-based community support will appreciably improve the experience of travelers by providing them with a safe, accessible and up-to-date facility...The benefits of the new RITC [Rochester Intermodal Transportation Center] are far-reaching. The station will serve as an important gateway to downtown Rochester, Monroe County and the Finger Lakes. It was clear during public meetings held in November 2011 that neighbors, business owners and community groups welcome the RITC as an economic development driver for the north eastern quadrant of Rochester."

[In his letter of support for the project, Richards wrote,](#)

"The project of both regional and statewide significance will be a great enhancement to the City of Rochester and the entire Empire Corridor. The RITC [Rochester Intermodal Transportation Center] will greatly enhance the experience of travelers to, from, and through Rochester by providing a safe, accessible, and up-to-date facility...To further demonstrate the City of Rochester's commitment to this project, the City will contribute \$500,000 toward construction. This project has the support of Amtrak and the Genesee Transportation Council, the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization."

Both letters of support can be found in the hyperlinks above.

Should the federal funding be granted, Richards has pledged \$500,000 to the station's construction and design. The New York State Department of Transportation has likewise pledged funding should the federal funds be awarded.

On February 10, Slaughter hosted a meeting with DOT Secretary LaHood, DOT Deputy Secretary Porcari, NYS DOT Commissioner McDonald and Mayor Richards to discuss progress on the Rochester station project.

According to estimates from rail experts, the number of rail passengers expected to use the Rochester station will double by 2035. Last year 140,000 people came through the station, five percent more than the year before. Over the past five years, ridership has increased by 40 percent along the Empire Corridor which stretches across Upstate New York.