



## **Slaughter Applauds \$1 Billion in President's Budget for High-Speed Rail**

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### *Funding Level Marks An Historic Commitment to High-Speed Rail*

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Washington, DC – Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, today applauded the inclusion of \$1,000,000,000 for high-speed rail projects in President Barack Obama's fiscal year 2010 budget.

**"I applaud President Obama's forward-thinking support of high-speed rail which is what we need to transform our nation's transportation system for the future,"** said Rep. Slaughter.

Rep. Slaughter is a foremost proponent of the "third track initiative", the high-speed rail project for Upstate New York. The "third track initiative" would be eligible for federal high-speed rail funding and Rep. Slaughter intends to lead the bi-partisan Upstate New York Caucus and other key stakeholders in the effort to obtain a portion of this funding.

**“The lack of reliable, efficient transportation has only compounded the problems of regions hit hardest by this economic crisis, namely Upstate New York,”** Slaughter continued.

**“A high-speed rail line will boost economic activity, make our cities more accessible and attractive for business and tourism, and create good jobs.”**

The budget specifies \$1,000,000,000 for the Federal Railroad Administration to administer grants to states to invest in high-speed passenger rail capacity. These investments will address five primary transportation priorities: (1) optimize existing transportation infrastructure; (2) build a foundation for economic competitiveness; (3) promote energy efficiency and environmental quality; (4) support inter-connected, livable communities; and (5) ensure safe transportation.

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