

I wanted to share some exciting news with you—

\$4,595,000 in federal funding has been approved that will be used to develop a high-speed rail line between Buffalo and Albany with stops in Rochester, Syracuse, and Utica.

This funding is the first step in improving Upstate New York passenger rail, and will lay the groundwork for High Speed Rail in the region. As I have said before, the development of a high-speed rail line in Upstate New York will not only address our lack of transportation options but create good jobs and boost economic activity across the region.

I requested this critical federal funding along with other Upstate Caucus members, Reps. Arcuri, Lee, Maffei, and Tonko. The funds were approved by a House Transportation Subcommittee as part of the Fiscal Year 2010 Transportation-Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill. We're anticipating that the funds will be approved by the full House Appropriations Committee on Friday and the House of Representatives next week.

The funds will be used to improve grade crossing safety and to facilitate high-speed rail along the Empire West Corridor. Work will include reconfiguration to enhance safety, including improvements to existing warning devices and the installation of channelization devices. These projects are an essential first step in the development of a high-speed rail line in Upstate New York.

These key funds mark a down payment on our push to bring high-speed rail to Upstate New York. I am proud to join with my Upstate Caucus colleagues on this endeavor.