

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) announced that she will be the keynote speaker at the New York State Summit on Rail Transportation taking place in Albany on Monday, June 14. The summit will focus on harnessing the potential of high-speed rail to benefit New York's rail-related businesses and grow the state economy. It will bring together leaders from the business, government, and economic development communities.

"Building a third track dedicated to high-speed passenger rail will not only create economic development in every city along the Empire Corridor, it will also rebuild New York's rail industry," said Slaughter. "The engineers, suppliers, and contractors should come from New York and I'm pleased to join the business leaders that will make that happen."

As the founder and Chairwoman of the Upstate New York Congressional Caucus, Slaughter has been New York's high-speed rail champion fighting for funding that will bring high-speed rail to the Empire Corridor stretching from Buffalo to Albany.

"High-speed rail is good for New York's businesses, our workers, our universities, our partners in trade and it's good for the environment," said Slaughter. "Eventually we will connect Upstate to New York to Cleveland and Chicago to the west, to Toronto and Montreal to the north and make travel across the state much easier."

About the New York State Summit on Rail Transportation

The purpose of the summit is bring together experts in high-speed rail with industry representatives in an effort to grow our rail and related businesses, offer collaboration between public and private agencies in order to better compete for available resources and funding, and to identify the challenges and opportunities associated with expanding the rail industry in New York State.

The summit is open to those who are involved with the rail industry, including but not limited to: industry manufacturers, vendors, suppliers, consultants, contractors and engineering firms, municipal transit authorities, government agencies, legislative representatives, and economic development officials.

More details on the New York State Summit on Rail Transportation are available here:

<http://www.esd.ny.gov/RailSummit/RailSummit2010.html>

Slaughter's Leadership Bringing High-Speed Rail to New York

In April, Slaughter brought Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Amtrak CEO Joseph Boardman to the Rochester Amtrak Station to discuss the future of high-speed rail in New York.

In February, New York received \$151 million from the stimulus package, the 8th largest award nationwide. Some of these federal funds will be used to begin work on a third track dedicated to passenger rail.

Last July, Slaughter and other members of the Upstate Congressional Caucus secured \$4.6 million in funding through the appropriations process that will improve grade crossing safety and to facilitate high-speed rail along the Empire Corridor.

For more on the benefits of high-speed rail in New York and Slaughter's efforts to fund and build a dedicated third track for high-speed passenger rail, visit www.louise.house.gov.