

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) announced that Rochester is one step closer to beginning development of a new high-speed rail ready intermodal train station. \$2.5 million has passed a key benchmark in Congress and is being allocated to build an intermodal station in Rochester that will allow passengers to travel by train, bus, taxi, car and bicycle all from the same station.

“In order to make high-speed rail accessible to tourists and business commuters, we must not let their journey stop at the train station. Intermodal stations are our community's gateway to public transportation services--both inter-city and intra-city and they are the key to linking rail to economic development,” said Slaughter, who's been New York's leading advocate for bringing high-speed rail to the Empire State. “This is a fantastic day for Rochester because it will give workers, students, and tourists the opportunity to experience everything Rochester has to offer. They don't just need to get here, we need to help them get around and an intermodal station helps them do just that.”

Rochester's current Amtrak station, built on Central Avenue in 1978, was intended to be a temporary facility. It lacks adequate ADA accessibility and is not constructed to support new high-speed rail. The \$2.5 million is being directed to the City of Rochester to begin planning and design of a new intermodal station that will house Amtrak, Greyhound and Trailways buses, and provide connectivity to RTS city buses, taxi and other modes of transportation.

Slaughter has been working with federal railroad officials and local stakeholders to use the best practices of other intermodal stations as plans for the new Rochester station develop.

This funding comes in addition to the \$1.5 million that Slaughter secured for development of Rochester's train station from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

In June, Slaughter served as the keynote speaker at the New York High-Speed Rail Summit in Albany. To a crowd of 250 business leaders from across New York, Slaughter said,

“We live in an age of innovation where a business’ most sought-after raw material is brain-power. Each of the Upstate Cities is blessed with an abundance of colleges, universities, and research and development centers of excellence. But our highly skilled and innovative workforce is largely siloed within each city’s immediate area. The promise of high-speed rail is to allow people the opportunity to live in one city and work in another and permit businesses to draw from a larger labor pool. An intermodal station allows us to draw workers to our city with the understanding that they’ll be able to get around.”