

Slaughter Also Announces \$28.46 Million for Projects Along Empire Corridor

Rochester, NY – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today announced \$1.5 million has been obligated to the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for the planning and design of a new passenger intermodal rail station on Central Avenue. Joined by officials from the Federal Railroad Administration and the City at the Rochester train station, Slaughter said the funds made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act were today awarded to NYSDOT after months of work by Slaughter, the city and the state.

“I’m delighted to announce that after months of work, \$1.5 million in federal funding is on its way to Rochester for an intermodal station,” said Slaughter, New York’s high-speed rail champion and founder of the Upstate Congressional Caucus. “In order to make high-speed rail accessible to tourists and business commuters, we must not let their journey stop at the train station. By combining bus and train facilities, this station will become the vital link making high-speed rail an economic driver in Rochester.”

“This station improvement project, along with the other engineering and planning activities funded by this grant are strategic investments in Rochester’s future,” said Federal Railroad Administration Deputy Administrator Karen Rae who joined Slaughter at the train station this morning. “These efforts will ultimately provide upstate New York residents an attractive transportation option, and connectivity to other cities in the region.”

“Under Governor Paterson's leadership, and thanks to the tremendous efforts of Congresswoman Slaughter and our Upstate Congressional delegation, we are here today to celebrate the signing of an agreement that will mark a new beginning in Rochester and for passenger rail all across New York State.” said Stanley Gee, Acting Commissioner of the New York State Department of Transportation who was in attendance. “This agreement and the Rochester Intermodal Station project could not have been possible without the support we received from the Recovery Act and the FRA, and the true partnership among all of us who are working to bring high speed intercity passenger rail to New York.”

Governor David A. Paterson welcomed the news as well saying, "Congratulations to the Rochester Intermodal Station on its recent award of \$1.5M in stimulus funds to make greatly needed improvements to the existing station and begin planning a new, fully ADA compliant intermodal station that will serve Rochester’s growing community and position the city for success as we move toward high-speed rail in New York. Rochester deserves a station that

reflects the strength of its community and support of passenger and freight rail in Upstate New York. Through the hard work of Congresswoman Slaughter, the Federal Railroad Administration, and the New York State Department of Transportation, this badly needed station will support all the other rail investments made in New York, which strengthen our economy, create jobs, and build a better New York."

In July, [Slaughter announced an additional \\$2.5 million](#) for the station has been awarded in the pending Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill. That funding is set to receive final approval from Congress by the end of the year.

Prior to the announcement Slaughter received more good news for high-speed rail in New York: \$28.46 million in federal grants were today awarded to Empire State projects for track improvements in Syracuse, signal improvements on the Hudson line, and bridge improvements in Albany. While 18 states applied for funding, New York received approximately 12 percent of the available funds.

"Anyone who says New York isn't competitive with other states, is mistaken," said Slaughter who supported the grant requests along with other members of the Upstate Congressional Caucus.

Both announcements are evidence of a promise made in April when Slaughter brought Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood to the Rochester station. He pledged the Obama Administration's continued dedication to high-speed rail projects and Slaughter vowed to make sure New York received its fair share of federal funding.

For more on Congresswoman Slaughter's work to bring high-speed rail to Upstate New York click [here](#).