
July 31, 2008 - Slaughter, Schumer Applaud Federal Funds for Construction of New Railroad Station

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Slaughter, Schumer Applaud Long-Awaited
Release of Federal Funds for Construction of New Railroad Station in Niagara Falls

Millions in Federal Funding Secured By Both Legislators Have Been
Held-Up By Bureaucratic Red Tape For Years

Niagara
Falls, NY – Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28) and
Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) today applauded the long-awaited release of
over \$3 million in federal funding for the construction of a new railroad
station in Niagara Falls.

Since
the current Niagara Falls Passenger Terminal is miles from the Falls and
inconvenient for tourists, the City of Niagara
Falls has been planning to build a new railroad station
for 20 years. The need for the new
station has become even more critical as airfares soar and prices at the pump
remain over \$4 per gallon. In fact,
recent reports have noted that ridership between Albany
and Niagara Falls
has increased by over 28 percent since last June.

Rep.
Slaughter secured \$4.7 million in 2005 and Sen. Schumer secured \$2.5 million in

2004 for the construction of a new station; however, approximately \$4.6 million have been held up due to bureaucratic red tape until now.

"The City of Niagara Falls plans and millions in federal funding for this new station have been tangled in red tape for far too long," said Slaughter. "I am so pleased that we will finally break ground on a project that will stimulate our local economy and ensure that visitors from across the nation and around the world can enjoy the majestic beauty of Niagara Falls."

"The release of these long-delayed funds is just what the doctor order for Niagara Falls. This grand station will make it easier for many thousands of tourists to access one of the natural wonders of the world," Schumer said. "With the release of these funds, we can finally break ground on this vital train station that will bridge Niagara Falls' rich history and its exciting future."

This week, \$3.4 million was transferred out of the U.S. Treasury to the Federal Highway Administration for use by the City of Niagara Falls and the remaining \$1.2 million will be made available to the City next year.

BACKGROUND

If this funding had not been allocated to the City of Niagara Falls by the end of this fiscal year, September 30, 2008, the \$3.4 million would have expired and been lost. Earlier this year, Rep. Slaughter and Sen. Schumer contacted federal authorities to urge them to make the funding available to the City of Niagara Falls as quickly as possible.

This past April, Rep. Slaughter and Sen. Schumer successfully secured assurances from federal authorities that the funding would be made available soon. This week, the funding was finally transferred for use by the city.

With the funding now available, design work on the new station is expected to be completed by the end of 2008. Phase I construction, which includes the rehabilitation of the historic Customs House, is expected to begin by the summer of 2009.

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