

June 15, 2006 - Slaughter Secures \$2.4 Million for Transportation, Economic Development...

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, June 16, 2006

Slaughter Secures \$2.4 Million for Transportation, Economic Development and Community Revitalization in Buffalo, Lewiston, Penfield, and Rochester

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, is pleased to announce that she has secured \$2.4 million in federal funding for a variety of economic development and community revitalization projects in Buffalo, Lewiston, Penfield, and Rochester.

"This money is about infrastructure improvements in Buffalo, waterfront enhancements in Lewiston, safety upgrades in Penfield, and new travel and tourism in Rochester," Rep. Slaughter said. "This funding is about creating jobs and revitalizing the economic and cultural life of our Western New York communities."

The funding was included as part of the FY07 Transportation-Treasury-HUD appropriations bill approved by the House on Wednesday. The Senate now must approve its Transportation-Treasury-HUD Appropriations bill before the final version of the legislation will be worked out in the weeks ahead.

A detailed summary of the projects to be funded is included below:

\$900,000 million for the enhancement of the Fruit Belt Corridor, Buffalo, NY. This project is part of a larger Fruit Belt Redevelopment Plan that is designed to spur economic growth in the Eastside of Buffalo. This funding will be used for roadway, streetscape, pedestrian access, and other infrastructure improvements necessary for the development of the Fruit Belt neighborhood. The project will include streets, sidewalks, curbs, street lights, and utility upgrades.

\$200,000 for the rehabilitation of the exterior of the GROUP Ministries community services building, Buffalo, NY. The building at 1323 - 1337 Jefferson Street was constructed in the early 1900s. It is structurally sound and presently houses GROUP Ministries, Inc., a multifaceted community-based organization that offers services to substance abusers and persons who are HIV positive or are at risk of contracting AIDS. The exterior of the building still retains its original features, which have deteriorated with time. The entire building has been a work in progress for the past few years, with most of the emphasis on the rehabilitation of the building's interior. This funding will be used to rehabilitate the exterior of the building, and will include the architectural design, replacement of doors and windows, and other improvements to the façade.

\$100,000 for the enhancement and improvement of public access to the Lewiston Landing Waterfront Park. This project involves a continuation of the enhancement and improvement of public access to "Lewiston Landing" in the Village of Lewiston for water dependent recreational activities and general public use, as well as for economic stimulus of small businesses. This funding will be used for expanded and improved docking facilities, increased parking, vista preservation, and landscape improvements.

\$100,000 for the construction and enhancement of Motts Lane, Penfield, NY. Due to recent development in towns adjacent to Penfield, traffic has increased to 35,000 vehicles per day in this area, making it difficult and unsafe to enter and leave the driveways that serve businesses operating along Route 441. The area experiences numerous accidents and recently was listed as having the most dangerous roads in Monroe County. This funding will be used to increase vehicular and pedestrian safety in Penfield, NY by completing an extension of Motts Lane and realigning its intersection with Liberty Street.

\$1 million for ramp and safety improvements at the Greater Rochester International Airport. The Greater Rochester International Airport serves as the gateway to economic growth and prosperity in Monroe County. This funding is for the North Ramp Pavement Project, where it will be used to repair buckling pavement, cracked retaining walls, and damage to the terminal building. The deteriorated pavement and retaining wall are a significant safety hazard to aircraft and workers. The retaining wall location also significantly impacts aircraft access to existing terminal gate parking positions. These airport improvements will lead to new flights, help drive economic development and create jobs in our region.

\$100,000 for the High Falls Film Festival, Rochester, NY. The High Falls Film Festival is a strong and growing event that attracts audiences from across the United States and around the world. The festival assists in the rejuvenation of downtown Rochester, NY by attracting tourists who patronize local small businesses. To continue to support and expand this critically needed economic revitalization, the festival needs to attract new audiences. This funding will be used for economic development planning that will promote, advertise, and expand the High Falls Film & Music Festival, as well as generate new tourism for the region.

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