

REGIONAL RAIL NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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House Approves Legislation Containing \$1.5 Million in CORRIDORone Transit Funds for 2006 *Region to Benefit from New Starts Grant Program*

HARRISBURG, Pa. (Nov. 18, 2005) – The United States House of Representatives gave final approval this afternoon – by a vote of 392 to 31 – to legislation providing funding for the U.S. Department of Transportation for the upcoming federal fiscal year that includes \$1.5 million for continued design, engineering and construction work on the CORRIDORone regional rail project.

Senator Arlen Specter's office notified the Modern Transit Partnership (MTP) that these funds will be made available through the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts capital improvement grants program pursuant to Congressional authorization of the project. This program is solely devoted to support "fixed guideway" transit systems, such as regional rail.

"We were very fortunate to have several Members of the House and Senate come together in a bipartisan way to secure this critical federal funding," Modern Transit Partnership (MTP) President John Ward said. "This has been an excellent year for the CORRIDORone project at the federal level, since our bipartisan Congressional delegation succeeded in reauthorizing the project for additional funds and has now provided another substantial installment of the federal share of mass transit capital funds that are necessary to complete this vital passenger rail project. This project ensures that our region receives its fair share of the federal funds which are available for

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ADD 1 – House Approves \$1.5 Million for CORRIDOR*one*

passenger rail systems and public transportation projects throughout the nation."

CORRIDOR*one* represents the initial leg of a regional rail system in southcentral Pennsylvania. Trains will run between Cumberland County — through Harrisburg — and Lancaster County, with 11 rail station stops. The CORRIDOR*one* regional rail system will use existing freight and passenger tracks in the area, and passenger trains similar to those used by AMTRAK. Service between Harrisburg and Lancaster is slated to begin in 2008, with Hampden/Sporting Hill to Harrisburg service to follow in 2009.

The MTP is a non-profit organization that serves as the leading advocate, facilitator, promoter and visionary for regional, integrated, multi-modal transit featuring regional rail. Launched in 1997 by the Capital Area Transit board of directors, this partnership is made up of business, community and government leaders who are striving to develop a regional congestion management plan that will meet tomorrow's transportation and infrastructure needs in south central Pennsylvania. CAT is the Cumberland-Dauphin-Harrisburg Transit Authority, providing public transportation with 28 bus routes and 17 park-and-ride locations throughout the region. CAT also provides paratransit service to citizens of Dauphin County.

For more information about CORRIDOR*one*, visit www.corridorone.info and www.mtptransit.org.

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