

REGIONAL RAIL NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Congressman Holden Presents Nearly \$3 Million in Federal Funds for CORRIDORone; CAT Receives \$1 Million for New Buses

HARRISBURG, Pa. (Dec. 9, 2004) – U.S. Rep. Tim Holden (PA-17) today presented checks to the Modern Transit Partnership (MTP) representing nearly \$3 million in new federal funds to support the CORRIDORone regional rail project.

As part of the Fiscal Year 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act signed by President George W. Bush (Wednesday), Congress included \$2 million in the Federal Transit Administration New Starts capital improvement grants program and \$550,000 in the Railroad Administration grade-crossing safety program for CORRIDORone. This funding will be utilized to complete preliminary engineering activities and continued design work, as well as to modify the tracks at the Harrisburg Transportation Center for appropriate safety measures in preparation for regional rail. MTP officials also received a \$218,250 Veterans Administration-Housing and Urban Development (VA-HUD) grant presented by the city of Harrisburg to support administrative operations.

“We are grateful for the broad spectrum of support from Pennsylvania’s bipartisan congressional delegation to secure the \$2 million and for the leadership of Congressman Holden for efforts in securing the \$550,000 and VA-HUD grants,” MTP Chairman Jerry Morrison said.

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ADD 1 – MTP & CAT Receive New Federal Funding

“There is a growing sense of excitement about the vitality that this transportation alternative will bring southcentral Pennsylvania, and this funding puts us on the right track toward realizing all the benefits that regional rail can offer.”

Congressman Holden also presented Capital Area Transit (CAT) with a \$1 million check to help fund the purchase of four new buses. Specifically, CAT plans to purchase four 35- to 40-foot buses that will replace 1988 Gillig models.

“Our hats go off to Congressman Holden for his efforts in securing this funding,” CAT Chairman Dick Miller said. “These new fleet upgrades will enable us to make traveling by bus more desirable for a wide range of passengers. We look forward to getting these vehicles on the road and building their operations into a multimodal transportation system – linking cars, buses, trains and airplanes – that will service *CORRIDORone*.”

CORRIDORone represents the initial leg of a regional rail system in southcentral Pennsylvania. Trains will run between east Mechanicsburg — through Harrisburg — and Lancaster, with 11 rail station stops.

Preliminary engineering for *CORRIDORone* began in 2003 and is expected to be completed in early 2005. Design and construction is slated to begin in mid-2005, with initial service between Harrisburg and Lancaster launching in 2007. Service between east Mechanicsburg and Harrisburg is expected in 2008 and service to Carlisle in 2010. Service for portions of *CORRIDORtwo*, which will include stops in Hershey, Lebanon and York, is scheduled to begin in late 2014.

The MTP is a non-profit organization that supports and promotes public transportation with the ultimate goal of bringing regional rail to southcentral Pennsylvania. Launched in 1997 by the CAT 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.

ADD 2 – MTP & CAT Receive New Federal Funding

CAT provides 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 the regional rail project, visit MTP's Web site at www.mtptransit.org or CAT's CORRIDORone Web site at www.corridorone.info. A project communications center is also available for the public to view various project-related maps and studies, learn more about ongoing project activities, and offer feedback. The center is open Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and is located at 207 Senate Ave. (Gannett East) in East Pennsboro Township, Cumberland County.

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