

Washington – Today, Congressman John Olver (1st District) announced that the final version of the Transportation appropriations bill includes \$1.625 million for Fitchburgh/Leominster commuter rail projects.

"Good public transportation is vital for a strong local economy," Olver said. "Commuter rail projects like Fitchburgh/Leominster are a key part of our transportation infrastructure and will help create jobs and stimulate economic growth in this region," Olver said.

Through his position on the Appropriations Committee, Olver was able to secure close to \$1.6 million for the Fitchburgh/Leominster commuter rail project. The Montachusett Regional Transit authority (MART) has proposed building a garage in North Leominster. In addition, the \$250,000 for the commuter rail facility improvements in North Leominster. Also included in the FY '01 Transportation appropriations bill is language that requires the Transportation Department to study the feasibility of commuter rail projects in Central and Western Massachusetts.

"If this language has its desired effect, transportation projects in Central and Western Massachusetts will be able to secure the funding they need to get started," Olver said.

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