

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved a funding bill that includes a total of \$1,750,000 for two Pioneer Valley projects.

Olver secured the funding in the FY10 Transportation and Housing (THUD) Appropriations Bill, which the House passed on July 23, 2009. Olver is chairman of THUD and worked to secure the funding. The Senate must still approve its appropriations bill and then both chambers will have to approve a reconciled bill before it goes to the president's desk to be signed into law.

\$1,500,000 for Advanced Traffic Management on I-91 Corridor

This funding will contribute toward the building of a fiber optic cable backbone with spare conduit for economic development over 58 miles of I-91 and I-291. The backbone will be equipped with an Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) comprised of variable message signs, closed circuit television cameras, and other IT infrastructure. The ATMS will be linked to the MassHighway office, as well as the MassHighway Traffic Operations Center in Boston, and to MA State Police Barracks in Northampton, Springfield and Shelburne.

"All communities in the Pioneer Valley have the potential of benefitting from this project," Congressman John Olver said. "This project will lay the ground work to open up a world of telecommunications opportunities."

For additional information, please contact:

Albert Stegeman, District 2 MHD Director, 413-582-0590.

\$250,000 for Renovations at the Wistariahurst Museum

This funding will match pledged city and state funds for the rehabilitation and expansion of the historic Carriage House. The work to be completed includes critical structural work, the creation of exhibit space and meeting space and climate-controlled archives for historic documents.

"This work will ensure that future generations will be able to come to the carriage house to learn about the Skinner family, manufacturing and the history of Holyoke," Congressman John Olver said.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Wistariahurst is the former compound of the Skinner family, manufacturers of nationally renowned textiles from 1874-1962. The property encompasses nearly 3 acres of cultivated grounds and gardens, a 13,438 square foot main house, and the 3,518 square foot carriage house. The Wistariahurst Museum Carriage House was constructed in 1880. The Carriage House is experiencing structural, interior and exterior deficiencies and action is required to prevent further deterioration of the existing structure.

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For additional information, please contact:

Melissa Boisselle,

boissellm@ci.holyoke.ma.us

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