

WASHINGTON, D.C. , Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved a bill that provides \$1 million to improve public transportation in northern Massachusetts.

"There is a tremendous need for good, reliable public transportation in this region. Local transit services are essential to the economic and social well-being of our communities," said Olver.

Olver included the funding in the FY07 Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) appropriations bill.

Olver is the Ranking Member (most senior Democrat) of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, and the District of Columbia.

The Senate must still approve an appropriations bill and then both chambers would have to approve a final bill.

\$600,000 for Community Transit Services (CTS) Dial-A-Ride

Community Transit Services (CTS), Inc., a non-profit public transportation provider based in Athol, provides Dial-A-Ride service to rural communities along Route 2.

CTS's service area includes the rural communities along Route 2 commonly referred to as the Northern Athol area.

"Services provided by CTS are particularly important to people with disabilities, senior citizens and the elderly," said Olver.

The CTS Dial-A-Ride program provides feeder service to the G-Link system operated in the Northern Athol area.

\$400,000 for rehabilitation and improvements of the Athol Rail Depot

The former Athol Rail Depot located at 573 South St. serves as CTS's base of operations and a bus transfer point.

The building is structurally sound. However, due to its age and deferred maintenance, repairs and upgrades are needed.

For additional information, contact:

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