

WASHINGTON, D.C. , Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has passed a bill that will provide \$4.55 million for transportation projects in North Central Massachusetts.

The bill includes \$3.8 million for Montachusett Area Regional Transit (MART) to improve its facilities and fleet.

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

"I am pleased to be able to secure this substantial funding to help meet the transportation needs of the people of North Central Massachusetts," Olver said.

Olver added, "Many residents are dependent upon accessible transportation to get to educational centers, jobs, and other essential services."

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

### **\$1.2 million for MART transit buses to replace its aging fleet**

These funds will be used to replace some of MART's aging fleet of 34 transit buses, some of which are over 10 years old.

"New buses to MART's fleet will benefit the public by saving on maintenance costs, and more efficient operation," Olver said.

### **\$1.6 million for MART storage facility in Leominster**

MART owns a building at 840 North Main Street in Leominster that will be expanded and renovated as a storage facility for its fleet.

Currently, MART stores most of its vehicles outside in all types of weather. Indoor storage protects the vehicles from weather damage and theft.

### **\$1 million for MART maintenance facility in Gardner**

These funds will go toward a much needed MART maintenance facility at 543 Main Street in Gardner. The facility will provide a place for MART vehicles to be repaired and maintained.

### **\$750,000 for Route 31 (Ashby State Road) in Fitchburg**

This funding will go toward the reconstruction of the intersection of Ashby State Road and Rindge Road in Fitchburg.

The project involves the installation of a roundabout at the intersection and improvements to Ashby State Road.

In FY06, Olver secured \$750,000 for this project.

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