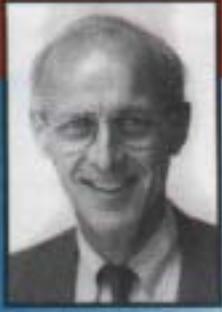




Congressman
JOHN W. OLVER

NORTH CENTRAL TRANSIT UPDATE



MASSACHUSETTS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear First District Resident,

As a member of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee in the U.S. House of Representatives, I am always fighting to secure federal funding for local highways, roads, bridges, transit services, intermodal links, bicycle paths, passenger rail service and airports. This newsletter is an update on some of those projects.

I've used my position on the Transportation Subcommittee to ensure that western and central Massachusetts communities receive their fair share of transportation dollars because I believe that a reliable, modern transportation infrastructure is critical to economic vitality.

I hope you find this update informative and useful.

Sincerely,

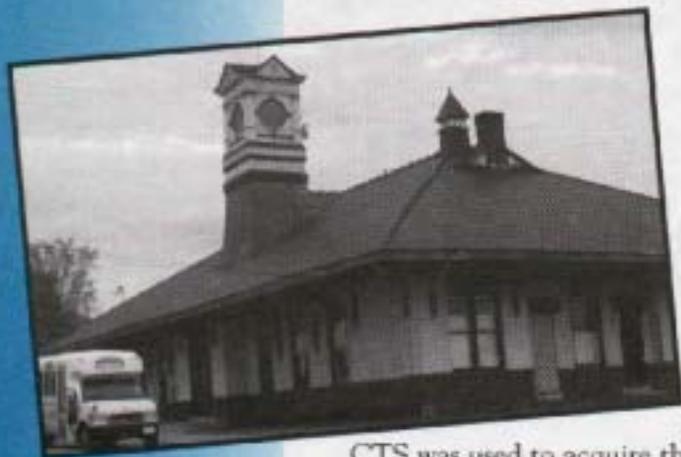
John W. Olver
Member of Congress

A New Fitchburg Intermodal Parking Facility Is Coming!

A new 400 car-parking garage with 13,000 square feet of retail space will be constructed this year adjacent to the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority's (MART) Intermodal Center on Main Street, Fitchburg. I secured \$3.3 million in federal funding for this crucial facility. The current 60-car lot, along with all commuter parking lots between Fitchburg and Acton, are full during the morning commute. A new garage is necessary to support the increasing number of commuters who utilize the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTA) rail line. New retail space in the garage will help generate economic growth in downtown Fitchburg.



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Refurbishing the Athol Train Station

Community Transit Services (CTS) has purchased the old Athol Train Depot, now known as the Northern Tier Intermodal Center, to use as its center of operations. A portion of the \$2 million that I secured in federal funding for CTS was used to acquire this facility. I am committed to identifying additional federal funds to help rehabilitate this historic structure.

New North Leominster Park & Ride Facility Will Boost Train Access

Construction is set to begin on a 103-car parking lot adjacent to the MBTA commuter rail line in North Leominster. I secured over \$700,000 for this project, which will provide better access for the more than 250 daily commuters who take the Boston-bound train from North Leominster. MART and the MBTA are currently investigating the possibility of building a walkway over the tracks to the existing station/platform or constructing a new platform with handicapped access directly behind the Nashua Street site.

MART's Advanced Vehicle Locator System to Improve, Increase Service

Advanced technology in public transit vehicles is a cost-effective approach to improving service, safety and security. The Montachusett Regional Transit Authority has established an Advanced Vehicle Locator (AVL) pilot program in 15 buses that utilizes Global Positioning Satellites and advanced coordination of transit schedules. To date, I have secured \$395,000 in federal funds for this project, and my goal is to provide additional funding to add 50 vehicles to the program. This will allow MART to strategically serve a larger population of elderly, handicapped and economically disadvantaged individuals.



Community Transit Services Dial-A-Ride & G-Link Going Strong

There has always been a tremendous need for public transit services in the North Quabbin region. Since 1998, I have secured nearly \$2 million in funding for Community Transit Services (CTS), a non-profit transit provider, to offer public transportation to educational institutions, jobs, hospitals, etc. Today, the Dial-A-Ride program operates 7 days a week/24 hours a day. In conjunction with the Montachusett and Franklin Regional Transit Authorities, CTS has also created a regional public transit service that incorporates both the Dial-A-Ride and a fixed route system between Greenfield and Gardner/Winchendon. Last year, this transit system provided over 48,000 rides.



Congressman
John W. Olver

Congress of the United States
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