

**News from U.S. Reps. Jim Clyburn (D-SC) and John Spratt (D-SC)
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.**

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Clyburn, Spratt Win Funds for Transportation Center

WASHINGTON – U.S. Reps. Jim Clyburn (D-SC) and John Spratt (D-SC) today announced \$5 million in federal funds to supplement construction of an intermodal transportation center in Sumter. The funds were included in a spending bill Congress passed Thursday night.

The transportation center is a project of the Santee-Wateree Regional Transportation Authority (SWRTA), the Sumter-Columbia Empowerment Zone, the City of Sumter, and a private developer.

"This project was identified in the Sumter-Columbia Empowerment Zone strategic plan as key to improving the quality of life for this region," Clyburn said. "Dependable transportation is essential to accessing jobs, education, and health care, and this transportation hub will insure that residents in need of improved access will have the best service available."

The project will restore an existing warehouse located on a brownfield in the heart of Sumter. Upon restoration, the facility will contain the administrative offices of SWRTA, a transit center that includes local, regional, and interstate bus service, and additional professional office and retail space for small businesses. Plans also include an on-site maintenance facility and a passenger rail station as part of the state transportation department's plan to develop a statewide commuter rail service to link Sumter with four of the state's largest cities.

"The Sumter transportation center will have a number of benefits for residents of the Santee-Wateree region," Spratt said. "It will improve the current system and make commutes easier. It will encourage private development in the region by acting as a small business incubator. And, it will revitalize Sumter as part of the city's urban renewal efforts.

"My colleague, Jim Clyburn, deserves credit for seeking these funds as a senior member of the Appropriations Committee. I was pleased to lend a hand in this worthy project and help secure the funds," said Spratt, the top Democrat on the House Budget Committee.

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