

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Steny Hoyer announced that the House of Representatives passed the FY 2006 Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, and District of Columbia Appropriations Conference Report, which includes federal funds for programs and projects that will greatly benefit Southern Maryland.

Congressman Hoyer is the only member in the House of Representatives from Maryland who serves on the Appropriations Committee.

"Southern Maryland will truly benefit from the projects and programs funded in this Conference Report," said Congressman Hoyer. "These funds will help make it easier to travel through our communities by upgrading key roadways and making improvements to the transit system in Southern Maryland, one of the fastest growing areas in the state."

"Overall, the projects that were funded in this bill will improve Southern Maryland's infrastructure, provide more and better opportunities to conduct important and innovative research, and bring opportunities to our area that will provide job security for Maryland families and stability for our regional economy," Hoyer added.

Specifically, Congressman Hoyer secured funding for the following list of programs that will benefit Southern Maryland:

MD 246 (Great Mills Road), MD 235 to Saratoga Drive, \$1 million

The funds will be used for streetscape construction of MD 246, Great Mills Road, from MD 235 to Saratoga Drive. Great Mills Road serves as a main street through the community of Lexington Park in Saint Mary's County, Maryland. The project will resurface the roadway, provide continuous sidewalk, improve drainage problems, consolidate and/or relocate the utilities, add medians from Coral Drive to FDR Boulevard (about 1250 ft), and enhance the landscaping of the town center.

Southern Maryland Commuter Bus Initiative, \$2 million

Congressman Hoyer helped secure this funding for the planning, design, and construction of the Southern Maryland Commuter Bus Initiative. This funding will allow the Southern Maryland region to construct six commuter parking facilities in Charles, St. Mary's and Calvert Counties, acquire over the road coaches, and improve intersections at key locations along the MD 5 corridor. The enhanced transit will enable swifter and more efficient movement of people throughout the greater Metropolitan area. Last year, Congressman Hoyer secured \$5 million for this initiative.

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