

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced today that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has awarded \$1,138,500 to the City of Utica to begin preparations for the construction of a new multi-purpose transit facility, which will include a new parking garage and bus service.

“This will help local residents hit by rising energy costs by investing in public transit which will save consumers money and foster economic growth downtown,” **said Arcuri, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee**

. “I will continue to fight to make sure federal funding is available to help communities like Utica build the necessary infrastructure to improve our region.”

“Today’s follow through commitment by Congressman Arcuri of over \$1.1 million dollars for Utica’s Downtown Parking garage and multi-model transit facility is evidence that Utica is making significant strides to start one of the most comprehensive construction projects in Downtown’s recent history,” **said Utica Mayor David Roefaro**. “Congressman Arcuri has carried the message to Washington that Utica is not going to let this funding slip away, and for that the City of Utica is grateful. My administration has successfully allocated this money before the September 30, 2008 deadline, and that has sent a clear message to Washington that we’re ready to begin moving Downtown Utica into a new era of development. Again, I applaud the efforts of Congressman Arcuri for releasing these funds so swiftly, and laud his ability to recognize the important role transportation and parking play in the sustainability of Downtown Utica’s future.”

This grant provides funds for environmental investigation and remediation as well as preliminary engineering for the construction of a transit facility in Utica, NY. These funds were included in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), which was signed into law in 2005 and provided funding for surface transportation projects through Fiscal Year 2009.

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