

Washington, DC -- Over \$11 million in congressionally-directed funding secured by U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) for local projects in Oneida and Herkimer Counties is included in legislation passed by the House of Representatives last night.

“I’m glad to see taxpayer dollars return home to help fund critical investments in our region,” **Arcuri said**

. “From new crime-fighting technology to important flood prevention projects, I am proud to have secured these critical investments to help hard-working families in Upstate New York. These funds will provide local communities with the resources they need to move our region forward.”

The funds secured by Arcuri are included in the Fiscal Year 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Act (H.R. 2764), which passed the House of Representatives late last evening. Local projects slated to receive funding include:

\$705,000 - Authentication Research Project at Utica College in Utica, NY. This project is intended to study and provide solutions to the problem of sexual offenders “managing” their identities to avoid court-ordered registration. It will collect, analyze and report on all available data on the extent and manner to which registered sex offenders use false identities, false identifiers, and /or false identification documents to avoid legally imposed registration and notice requirements and/or detection by federal or state law enforcement authorities; and identify available identity management techniques that might address any such deceptive activity.

\$414,000 – St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center in Utica, NY. Funds would be used for the expansion, modernization and renovation of St. Elizabeth’s Emergency/Trauma Center and Kitchen Cafeteria.

\$73,000– Kelberman Center in Utica, NY. Funds will be used to develop additional programming for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and expand existing programs for pre-school and school age children.

\$750,000– City of Utica, NY for reconstruction of NYS Routes 5, 8, & 12 Viaduct and Route 5A and 5S. This project will reconstruct a viaduct that is structurally deficient and

reconfigure the interchange of Route 5, 8 and 12 with Route 5A and 5S. The reconstruction of the viaduct will increase the capacity, reduce congestion and improve safety of the arterial. This will reduce travel times and costs and make the Utica area more attractive for new economic development initiatives.

\$400,000 – Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (CNYRTA). Funds will be used for the design, land acquisition, and construction of a consolidated Transit Garage and maintenance facility in the City of Utica, NY to house the City of Rome and City of Utica, NY bus operations. This project will involve design, land acquisition, and construction of a central maintenance facility.

“These transportation projects will make our roads are safer, more efficient, and well maintained - fostering economic development and expansion right here where we need it most,” **said Arcuri, who is a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee** . “By upgrading critical infrastructure, especially to improve transportation between Rome and Utica, we advance economic development throughout the entire region.”

\$100,000 – Players of Utica in Utica, NY. Funds will be used by the Players of Utica to fund a project to construct a 10,400 square foot steel building that will be the home of the Players of Utica. On May 5, 1999, the Players of Utica Theatre was destroyed by fire.

\$200,000 – Rome Community Brownfield Restoration Corporation in Rome, NY. The Rome Community Brownfield Restoration Corporation (RCBRC), in partnership with the City of Rome, has undertaken the revitalization of the former Rome Cable facility. This effort illustrates a community commitment to support an economic development initiative by modifying a portion of the former facility as part of business expansion/relocation by Owl Wire at the facility.

\$6.6 million – NEADS in Rome, NY. Funds will be used to complete construction of a new \$9.6 million NEADS headquarters facility on the Griffiss Business and Technology Park.

\$97,000 – Herkimer County Community College (HCCC), Herkimer, NY. Funds will be used to renovate four existing laboratories/preparatory areas and provide the necessary infrastructure to ensure a teaching and learning environment that can utilize current technology, provide access to students with disabilities and provide required protection from hazardous materials.

“I am proud to announce that we were able to secure funding to enhance science and technology education at Herkimer County Community College,” **said Arcuri**. “In the new global market place science and technology education are the keys to economic development. Our highly educated workforce is the backbone of our region.”

Funding for HCCC was not included in the original House passed appropriations legislation. However, Arcuri was able to successfully work with his colleagues to ensure this critical funding made it into the final legislation.

\$1.5 million – Steele Creek in Ilion, NY. The study area lies along the lower section of Steele Creek, a tributary of the Mohawk River. Frequent flooding occurs along Steele Creek, in the Village of Ilion due to flows, which exceed the existing channel’s capacity. The heavy flows occur as a result of ice jams, which form at the bridges. The principal damage areas lie on the right bank of the waterway and include many residential and commercial structures. Federal dollars made available will fund the remainder of the design phase and partially fund the construction phase of the project to construct an ice control structure and removal of the Ogee Weir (small overflow-type dam commonly used to raise the level of a river or stream).

\$600,000 - Fulmer Creek – The project area lies along the lower section of Fulmer Creek, a tributary of the Mohawk River. Frequent flooding occurs along Fulmer Creek in the Village of Mohawk due to flows which exceed the existing channel’s capacity. The heavy flows that occur in combination with ice jams that form at river crossings cause extensive flooding in developed areas. These funds will be used to construct an ice control structure at an upstream location, as well as stream-bank restoration and other flood control measures. Funding secured by Arcuri will fully fund the construction phase of the project.

Moyer Creek – The legislation designates the project worthy of federal funding subject to the discretion of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The study area lies along the lower section of Moyer Creek, a tributary of the Mohawk River. Frequent flooding occurs along Moyer Creek in the study area due to flows, which exceed the existing channel’s capacity. The heavy flows occur as a result of ice jams, which form at the historic arch bridges. The funds will be used for the construction of ice control piers just south of Hwy 5-south.

“The towns and villages in Mohawk Valley flood plains know all too well how devastating

flooding is for homes and businesses,” **Arcuri said**. “I am pleased to secure funding that will enable the Army Corps of Engineers to continue, and in some important cases fully complete, critical projects to reduce flooding in local areas.”

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