



Congressman John Olver

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Congressman John W. Olver

1111 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-2101

Tel: 202-225-5335

Fax: 202-226-1224

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



OLVER ANNOUNCES HOUSE APPROVES \$1.56 MILLION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO DOWNTOWN SOUTHWICK

WASHINGTON, D.C. , Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved a funding bill that includes \$1.56 million for a project that includes roadway and drainage improvements in the center of Southwick in addition to enhancements that will create an attractive downtown business district.

Olver secured the funding in the FY07 Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Judiciary and District of Columbia (DC) Appropriations bill, which the House approved June 14.

Olver is the Ranking Member (most senior Democrat) of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, HUD, the Judiciary and DC and worked through that role to secure the transportation funding.

The Senate must still approve its appropriations bill and then both chambers will have to approve a reconciled bill before it goes to the president's desk to be signed into law.

This funding will go toward improving Route 10/202 in the center of Southwick with the goal of creating a distinct and attractive downtown area and business district that will appeal to pedestrians, visitors and the business community. In addition, the project will address serious drainage and safety issues related to this stretch of highway.

"The project is good news for residents of the town of Southwick, as well as businesses along the roadway," Olver said. "Southwick will greatly benefit from the creation of a downtown business district that will attract increased business and economic development."

The project includes the resurfacing and reconstruction of Route 10/202 in the town center. Granite curbs and sidewalks will be installed, street lighting will be improved to increase pedestrian and traffic safety, new drainage work will occur, existing drainage infrastructure will be improved to stop current discharge into wetlands and surrounding streams, and plantings and related enhancements will take place.

In FY06, Olver secured \$1.8 million for this project.

For additional information, contact: Dana Roscoe, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, at 413-781-6045 or droscoe@pvpc.org

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