

Ellison secures funds for Central Corridor and Lowry Ave Bridge

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Washington, D.C. -- Representative Keith Ellison (DFL-Minneapolis) secured two major appropriations for the Fifth District - \$45 million for the Central Corridor Light Rail System and \$900,000 for the Lowry Ave Bridge. Both appropriations were included in the 2011 Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill (H.R. 5850) that passed the House late last night.

“Creating safe, affordable and reliable transportation options is one of my top priorities in Congress,” Ellison said. “Our economy depends on our ability to get where we need to, when we need to, quickly and affordably.”

The \$45 million Central Corridor appropriation, an 11-mile light rail line connecting downtown St. Paul and downtown Minneapolis, represents the first major federal down payment for the proposed \$957 million transit project that will serve over 40,000 riders daily by 2030.

Ellison also secured \$900,000 for the Lowry Avenue Bridge. These funds will be used to replace this critical Northeast Minneapolis commuter artery that spans the Mississippi River. The bridge was closed in 2008 due to known structural issues and demolished in June 2009.

“The tragic 2007 Interstate 35-W Bridge collapse was a wakeup call for America to rehabilitate and reinvest in our nation’s roads and bridges,” Ellison said. “I am proud to help rebuild the Lowry Avenue Bridge, and to ensure that we remain vigilant in maintaining safe transportation infrastructure in our communities.”

For more information on the Central Corridor:

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/centralcorridor.asp>

For more information on the Lowry Avenue Bridge Replacement:

<http://lowryavenuebridge.com/>