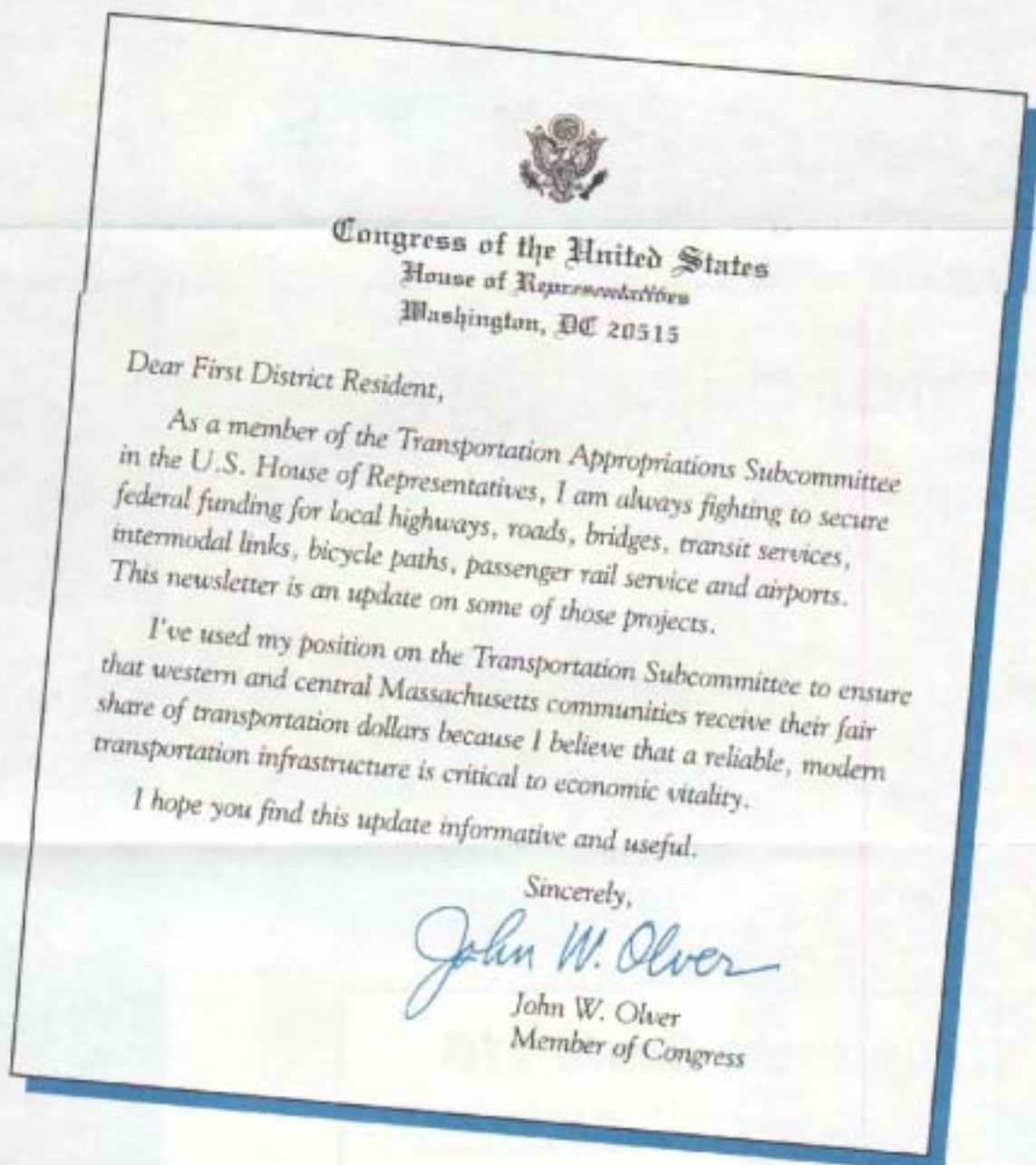




Congressman JOHN W. OLVER

Franklin & Hampshire Counties Transportation Update

MASSACHUSETTS



Coolidge Bridge Reconstruction Continues

The Massachusetts Highway Department has committed to maintaining an aggressive schedule to finish this important project to commuters. I am pleased to have played a funding role for the bridge's improvements, aimed at reducing the burdensome congestion on Route 9 in Hadley. This project is a bellwether for Mass Highway's new commitment to give greater attention to communities in the Pioneer Valley and elsewhere in western Massachusetts.

I discussed the Coolidge Bridge construction schedule with Massachusetts Highway Department officials at the project's groundbreaking event.

More Bike Trails Will Ease Congestion

The Connecticut River-spanning Norwottuck Rail Trail has successfully reduced congestion and increased our quality of life in the upper Pioneer Valley. To build on this success, I secured federal funds to build two more bike path connections in the Upper Valley: the Manhan Bike path in Easthampton and the Amherst/UMass-Norwottuck connector. Thanks to years of hard work by local supporters, these trails will create new transit connections to our jobs, shopping, and area colleges.



I discussed congressional support for environmental and recreational initiatives with many cycling enthusiasts at the opening of the Amherst/UMass-Norwottuck connector.

Connecticut River Scenic Farm Byway

The Connecticut River Scenic Farm Byway initiative was created to preserve and promote the unique agricultural, scenic, historic, and recreational resources along the Connecticut River. The Byway includes Routes 63/10 and 47, passing through the communities of Northfield, Montague, Erving, and Sunderland in Franklin County. New funding for the Byway will construct a scenic overlook in Sunderland, improve roads in Millers Falls and Northfield's Main Street, and help acquire scenic easements along Route 47. The project is part of a three-state effort that includes Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont and emphasizes participation of the public through citizen Byway Area Committees.

Improving Route 116

As those who travel Route 116 know, portions of this critical link between Franklin and Hampshire Counties are deteriorating. To address the problem, I secured \$2.5 million in earmarked federal funds to resurface Route 116 in Ashfield and Conway. I will continue working on safety improvements to this important state roadway.

A Safer Route 2

Safety improvements along the hazardous Route 2 in Franklin County are finally underway. Highway renovations, based on recommendations from the Route 2 Safety Improvement Study, will widen shoulders, construct new passing and climbing lanes, add shoulder rumble strips, and realign roadways. Furthermore, I recently secured federal funding to allow work to begin on the long-awaited Erving Paper Mill Route 2 bypass. The bypass will expand access to the Erving Paper Mill and allow the plant to move forward with its planned \$50 million expansion, which will create new jobs.

The Vital Role of Public Transit

Improving public transportation has always been one of my top legislative priorities. Accessible transit is critical for Pioneer Valley residents to access education, employment and medical services. In addition to enhancing personal mobility, quality public transportation cuts down on carbon dioxide emissions, the primary cause of global warming. I will continue to work in Congress to provide funding to improve public transit services and options in western Massachusetts.



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