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WASHINGTON, DC — Hours after taking her oath of office, Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui cast her first votes in favor of legislation authorizing federal highway and transportation funding for the next six years, including \$28 million for local Sacramento-area projects. These projects will benefit Sacramento by creating jobs, boosting economic development and revitalization, and improving road and highway conditions. "In Sacramento, 70 percent of freeway lanes are congested and motorists spend 31 hours a year sitting in traffic," Matsui said. "That's time that you could be spending on the job or with your families. And traffic isn't cheap. Congestion costs \$830 million a year in extra fuel, wasted time and lost productivity. This project funding will begin to alleviate this burden on the residents of Sacramento." Five highway and transit projects were awarded specific funding amounts. Two other major light rail transit projects also received a special Congressional designation as federal funding priorities. While their specified amounts were not listed, the South Line Extension from Meadowview Road to Cosumnes River College and Calvine/Auberry Roads, and the Downtown Natomas Airport Line are now approved to receive continued federal assistance for development and construction. Projects approved to receive funding include:

- \$7 million to advance development of the Intermodal station by constructing improved bus facilities and trackside passenger facilities, and for more efficient access to the station for light rail, taxis and automobiles.

- \$8 million for initial improvements along Folsom Boulevard between Rod Beaudry Drive and Sunrise Boulevard, such as installing sidewalks and street lighting to provide for public safety.

- \$8 million for the North Central Business District to widen 7th Street and improve and reconstruct the Richards Boulevard / I-5 Interchange.

- \$4 million to reconstruct the U.S. Highway 50 interchange with Watt Avenue.

- \$2 million for the construction of a bus maintenance facility, and the purchase of full size & shuttle buses.

Ms. Matsui contacted House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Rep. Jim Oberstar (D-MN), ranking Democrat on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, while the Fifth Congressional District seat was vacant to ensure that Sacramento's transportation needs were addressed in the legislation. "I want to thank Leader Pelosi and Mr. Oberstar for looking after Sacramento's interests while the seat was empty. Given Sacramento's explosive growth, we simply cannot afford to miss any opportunity to modernize and improve our transportation infrastructure." The funding was included in a comprehensive transportation bill, H.R. 3, the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEAL-LU), which the House of Representatives approved today. The House legislation has been referred to the Senate for consideration, after which a reconciled bill must be signed by the President.

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