

## (December 12, 2006) Congressman Dan Lipinski Wins Seat on House Transportation Committee

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WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Dan Lipinski today secured a seat on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, a powerful committee with jurisdiction over America's surface transportation, aviation, freight and passenger rail, the Coast Guard, public buildings, and various environmental issues. The Steering and Policy Committee unanimously recommended Representative Lipinski for the committee and the entire Democratic Caucus will be voting on approval in January.

"As a leader on local transportation issues, it is a great honor to be appointed to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure," said Congressman Lipinski. "This position will provide me with an even greater ability to address critical transportation issues for the people of the Third District, the Chicago area, and the state of Illinois."

In his first term Congressman Lipinski put a tremendous emphasis on transportation improvements for the Chicago region. Lipinski secured \$126 million for local projects, including \$100 million for the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency program (CREATE) - a \$1.5 billion public/private partnership to improve Chicago's rail infrastructure. He then led the effort to reach an unprecedented cooperative agreement among congressional and administration officials, the State of Illinois, the City of Chicago, and the railroad industry, for a three-year, \$330 million Phase I of CREATE. This project includes numerous improvements to local railroad infrastructure, and will benefit freight traffic, commuter rail traffic, and intercity rail passengers, along with aiding local traffic on roads through the building of underpasses.

"This appointment is especially important in facilitating my continued leadership on the CREATE rail modernization program," Lipinski stated. "And with the Aviation Bill scheduled for next year, I will be focused on issues critical to the continued vitality of Midway Airport and O'Hare Airport."

With his seat on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Congressman Lipinski will continue to address transportation issues throughout the district, working to decrease rail, highway, and aviation congestion and allowing the region to continue to function as a major transportation hub while preserving the quality of life for constituents.