

## (April 19, 2007) CONGRESSMAN LIPINSKI COMMENDS IDOT'S \$70 MILLION FUNDING INCREASE

### CONGRESSMAN LIPINSKI COMMENDS IDOT'S \$70 MILLION FUNDING INCREASE FOR CENTRAL AVENUE BYPASS

[WASHINGTON, DC] Today Congressman Dan Lipinski, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, commended Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Milt Sees for adding \$70 million to the Central Avenue Bypass project in Illinois' FY 2008-2013 Highway Improvement Program. The funding was increased at the request of Congressman Lipinski.

"I am pleased that IDOT Secretary Sees included an additional \$70 million for the Central Avenue Bypass in the Highway Improvement Program released today," said Lipinski. "It's a project that is critical to the Southwest side and the region, and this budget increase reinforces the importance of this project to the state."

The last IDOT multiyear Highway Improvement Program only budgeted \$40.4 million for the project. Congressman Lipinski's intervention has restored the total funding level to \$110.4 million. IDOT has informed Congressman Lipinski that they will continue to move forward with preliminary engineering and other activities related to the project.

"This is a good step forward," explained Lipinski. "Yet there is still more work that needs to be done. While this funding level will not complete the entire project, it shows that IDOT is committed to the Central Avenue Bypass, and it will help leverage additional engineering work in the near future. Additional funds will be needed to fully construct the project, and I will continue to advocate for those funds in Washington, DC."

Congressman Lipinski is the only Chicago area member on the powerful House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The Committee allocates billions of dollars of highway and transit funding across the country.