

News...

...from the Illinois House of Representatives

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

State Rep. Al Riley

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Riley Brings in Over \$30 Million for Local Road Projects

\$3 Billion Construction Plan Aims to Create Jobs and Improve Area Roads and Transportation

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Continuing his efforts to tackle Illinois' economic troubles, state Rep. Al Riley (D-Olympia Fields) on Thursday evening passed landmark legislation to approve \$3 billion in road, mass transit and bridge construction projects in Illinois and to create jobs as the state experiences record unemployment.

“This legislation is a crucial first step on Illinois' road to economic recovery,” Riley said. “We are making substantial progress during this daunting and challenging time. It is my hope that this much-needed legislation can significantly improve Illinois infrastructure and create good-paying jobs. This will facilitate better roads, better jobs and a better Illinois.”

Over \$20 million was appropriated to the area for repair, intersection improvements and additional lighting for I-294. Additionally, nearly \$10 million in local projects to resurface and patch roads are also included in the plan. In total, over 15 miles of area roads will be improved. This is a part of a \$3 billion capital construction program to begin this spring. The majority of projects are funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the federal stimulus bill passed by the U.S. Congress earlier this year.

House Bill 210 also appropriates \$1.7 billion for Medicaid payments to help eliminate the backlog of unpaid bills to health care providers, while also providing funding for other requirements to receive federal stimulus money. The legislative package also makes investments in renewable energy and other environmental projects while appropriating necessary supplemental funds for state agencies.

“Illinois and this nation are encountering a frightful economic downturn and this package creates meaningful, viable and necessary improvements,” Riley said. “We must do whatever we can to ensure jobs and safe roads for every Illinoisan. We are in the midst of a fiscal crisis and this is a vitally important move to positively affect this area and state.”

House Bill 210 passed the House and was signed by the governor Friday.

For additional information, please contact Riley's constituent service office at (708) 799-4364.

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