



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

## GENERAL COURT

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 7, 2010

## **Transportation Center Construction to start in Spring**

**AMESBURY** – The Amesbury Transportation Center has been sent out to bid by the Merrimack Valley Rapid Transit Authority, State Representative Michael A. Costello and State Senator Steven A. Baddour announced today. The 18-month construction period for the project is expected to begin in late spring.

The Transportation Center will be located in Amesbury's Lower Millyard, a focal point for economic development in the city. In addition to transportation infrastructure for the MVRTA, the building will house town facilities, including the Amesbury Senior Center, the Health and Human Services Department and Amesbury Veteran Affairs.

"With hard work, persistence and cooperation from all of the interested parties, we were able to bring this project from the design phase into the construction phase. In particular, Secretary Jeff Mullan, of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, had the vision to understand the significant benefits this project will have for the Lower Merrimack Valley," said Representative Costello. "The transportation center will be an economic boon for Amesbury, creating new opportunities for businesses and new jobs."

The \$8.6 million project is expected to create 125 construction jobs, and will be paid for using a combination of state, federal and federal stimulus funds.

"As we look to the future, it is critical for the state to invest in our transportation infrastructure," said Senator Baddour. "I am pleased that the Amesbury Transportation Center is moving forward. When completed, it will serve as a vital transportation hub for the region. In the process, we will be providing much-needed space for the senior citizens of Amesbury."

"We are now one step closer to the long-awaited ground breaking ceremony," said Amesbury Mayor Thatcher Kezer. "We are grateful for the assistance of Representative Costello and Senator Baddour in sheparding the project to the construction stage. Our partnership with the MVRTA on the Transportation Center will serve to enhance our downtown, improve access to transportation, and create an efficient and fully-accessible senior center."

Joe Costanzo, administrator for the MVRTA, said: "I am very pleased to put the Transportation Center in the Central Registry, and look forward to opening the bids in mid-March."

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