

**NEWS from Congressman John W. Olver**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 20, 2010

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**OLVER, FTA ADMINISTRATOR ROGOFF, & HOLYOKE MAYOR PLUTA  
ANNOUNCE GRAND OPENING OF HOLYOKE MULTIMODAL TRANSIT CENTER**

HOLYOKE, MA—On Monday, September 27, 2010, Congressman Olver, Federal Transit Authority Administrator Peter Rogoff, and Holyoke Mayor Elaine Pluta will come together for the much anticipated grand opening of the Holyoke Transportation Center (HTC).

The HTC is a joint development project between the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA), the City of Holyoke, MA and the Holyoke Intermodal Facility, LLC— a private development firm from Springfield, MA. The \$8.9 Million HTC Project includes the adaptive reuse and conversion of the former Holyoke Fire Department Headquarters at 206 Maple Street in downtown Holyoke into a multi-use, transportation center with a new 7-bay bus port and additional surface parking, Head Start classrooms, and a downtown location for Holyoke Community College and its adult literacy programs. This public-private partnership project will create 19 full time new jobs and has already created 300 construction jobs.

In 2009, the US Department of Transportation (DOT), the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), formed the Sustainable Communities Partnership to ensure that housing and transportation goals are met while simultaneously protecting the environment, promoting equitable development and helping to address challenges of climate change. The Holyoke Transportation Center has been highlighted as a sustainable project by DOT, HUD and the EPA.

Transit highlights of the project include:

- Vastly improved transportation access, facilities, and amenities for persons traveling to, from, and through downtown Holyoke.
- State-of-the-art facility providing enhanced customer service and improved operations for PVTA and Peter Pan Bus Lines.
- Improved streetscape and sidewalk system surrounding the Transportation Center for a safer walking environment.

Education highlights of the project include:

- 2 Head Start classrooms serving 40 children between the ages of 3 and 5.
- A downtown location for Holyoke Community College's adult literacy programs that will serve approximately 400 students/week.

“The Holyoke Transportation Center is the first of its kind in the Pioneer Valley and a remarkable example of what can be accomplished when public and private partners work together. This investment will change lives,” said Congressman Olver. “Coupled with the City’s redevelopment efforts and the Holyoke High Performance Computing Center, the Paper City is

reinventing itself as a sustainable and livable community – one that provides residents with affordable housing and transportation options, educational opportunities for both children and adults, and addresses the challenges of climate change.”

"This will be an exciting day in the City of Holyoke where we will be able to offer one-stop services downtown. Residents can access transportation, child care, and basic educational services or college courses all in one location. It's a one-of-a-kind model for success," said Elaine Pluta, Mayor of Holyoke

“The opening of the Holyoke Transportation Center is a significant milestone for PVTA and its passengers. It is the first regional hub that we have provided for our passengers and we hope to offer more in the future. The regional hub concept will help PVTA keep our existing passengers and attract many new passengers. They will be able to wait for their bus in a comfortable setting and speak to a bilingual customer service representative who can provide routing, schedule, and fare information. Senior citizens and mobility impaired persons will be able to get more information about our paratransit services. At the end of next year, PVTA will also launch our new intelligent transportation system at our Holyoke center, which will display real time departure information. None of this would have been possible without the assistance of Congressman John Olver,” said Mary MacInnes, Administrator, PVTA.

“This new transit center is so much more than a bus station. It will be great for bus riders not to have to wait for their bus in inclement weather and it’s much safer for seniors,” said PVTA rider Katherine Jourdain.

"It was a long-time vision of my father, Peter Picknelly, Sr., to once again serve a community that helped Peter Pan Bus Lines become what it is today. If my father were alive, he would be very proud to see his dream come to fruition," said Peter Picknelly, President & CEO of Peter Pan bus lines.

“The Holyoke Transportation Center will leave a positive economic footprint in the heart of Holyoke’s downtown. It will create positive returns for surrounding businesses and serve as a catalyst for future expansion”, State Senator Michael R. Knapik said.

“I applaud the efforts of the city of Holyoke, state and federal government agencies, Holyoke Community College, HeadStart, the Picknelly Family, and other stakeholders who brought this public-private partnership about. Projects such as this will not be possible in the future without strong collaborations such as this,” he added.

"This new facility is a great asset to the City of Holyoke. It will provide accessible adult and child education classes as well as safe and convenient access for transportation," said Massachusetts State Representative Michael Kane.

“Holyoke Community College is thrilled to be part of the renaissance of downtown Holyoke. The collaboration with our Juntos partners will provide area residents with critical access to education, from family literacy, workforce development and adult basic education, to credit college classes. This unique, inclusionary model of joining transportation, childcare, and educational services in one location, will surely serve as a national model,” said Bill Messner, president of Holyoke Community College.

“HCS Head Start is honored to be included in the new Holyoke Transportation Center. The classroom space is second to none and the children have such a wonderful environment to learn and grow in the city of Holyoke,” said Janis Santos, Executive Director of HCS Head Start, Inc.

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