

## August 24, 2006 Intersection improvements will ease Mon Valley congestion

For Immediate Release

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New Eagle, PA - Improvements slated at a Washington County interchange will work in conjunction with the Mon-Fayette Expressway to increase safety and mobility in the congested Mon Valley area, Congressman John Murtha said today during a visit to Route 88/Route 837 site in New Eagle.

"The Mon-Fayette will be an enormous improvement in the region's transportation's system and will create strong economic development potential," Murtha said. "But to fully capitalize on that potential, we need to make sure that communities along the corridor have good connector roads so traffic can get on and off the expressway to the places where people live, shop and work. This intersection is a key to opening this part of the Mon Valley to development."

Murtha has added \$1 million for the project to the 2007 transportation appropriations, which the House passed in June.

"Budgets have been extremely tight over the last couple of years because of the war in Iraq and tax cuts, so getting federal money for the expressway has been difficult," Murtha said. Nonetheless, he has obtained about \$10 million for the expressway in the past few years and has added \$2 million to the pending transportation appropriation legislation.