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For Immediate Release

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New Alexandria, PA - Congressman John Murtha today hailed the groundbreaking for the widening of another section of Route 22 as another major step forward in the region's progress. Murtha joined Governor Ed Rendell, state Department of Transportation and other officials in the groundbreaking for a 4.1-mile section of Route 22 from Route 981 to Route 982 in Derry Township, Westmoreland County.

Murtha issued the following statement for the occasion:

"Today's groundbreaking on the Derry Township section is a major step forward toward the complete reconstruction of Route 22 from Ebensburg to Pittsburgh as a more efficient, four-lane highway that will improve our area's economic development potential. We certainly appreciate the support and hard work of Governor Rendell and PennDOT to move these vital projects forward.

"Route 22 has been one of my top priorities for years because it will improve access to and from Northern Westmoreland, Indiana and Cambria Counties, especially the access to the important Pittsburgh market."

Murtha has obtained \$95 million for these sections of Route 22 and pushed for a significant increase in the funding level for the Appalachian Regional Development System, which is providing 80 percent of the funding for the Derry Township contract. Murtha previously obtained \$122 million for the Ebensburg to Hollidaysburg section of Route 22.

Of the 13 sections of Route 22 in Cambria, Indiana and Westmoreland Counties, six are done, four are now under construction, and the remaining three sections should be done in 2009 and 2010.