



# Report from Congressman Eliot Engel

Congressman  
**ELIOT L. ENGEL**

17th District

**Rockland Office:**

261 West Nyack Road  
West Nyack, NY 10994  
845-735-1000

**Washington Office:**

2161 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-2464

[www.house.gov/engel](http://www.house.gov/engel)

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- Millions in Federal Transportation Funds Obtained for “some of the County's most important road and public transit projects.”
- Eliot Engel Honored for Leadership in Passing the Highlands Stewardship Law
- Congressman Engel Obtains \$11 Million in Federal Funds for Rockland County since January 2005
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- Congressman Engel Sponsors Health Care Legislation to Get Health Care Insurance for the Uninsured

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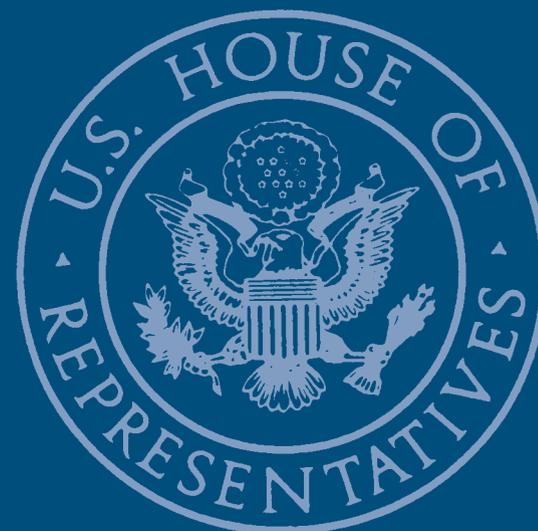
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# RESULTS for Rockland

A report from  
**Congressman  
Eliot Engel**



# WORKING FOR ROCKLAND AND GETTING RESULTS

## Millions in Federal Transportation Funds Obtained for Rockland

Congressman Eliot Engel said that he would work to make sure that when the final transportation funding legislation passed Congress it would include millions for improvements in Rockland. He was successful. The funds for Rockland include:

- \$3.2 million for ferry boats and the construction of terminals to operate from Rockland to Yonkers and Manhattan.
- \$2.28 million to improve safety at railroad grade crossings and to meet federal Quiet Zone standards on the West Shore River Line
- \$2.3 million for Tappan Zee Bridge improvement studies
- \$1 million to replace bridges on Route 59 over Strawtown Road, Western Highway and the Hackensack River
- \$1 million in improvements for the Route 340 and Erie Street intersection with Route 303
- \$600,000 for flood control and storm water drainage
- \$200,000 for the development of the Palisades Trailway

*The Journal News* summed-up the impact of the millions obtained when it reported on July 30, 2005 that “Getting in, around and out of Rockland could get significantly easier as the U.S. Congress passed...[a] transportation bill that would fund some of the County’s most important road and public transit projects.”

## Eliot Engel Honored for Highlands Law

Congressman Engel recently received an award from the Highlands Coalition for his efforts and leadership in Congress to get the Highlands Stewardship Act passed. Carol Ash, Vice-Chair of the Highlands Coalition and Executive Director of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, presented the award.

“The Highlands Stewardship Act was one of my top priorities in Congress, and I feel honored to receive this recognition of my work to safeguard our environment,” said Congressman Engel. “The Highlands are a national treasure that deserves Federal protection to prevent their destruction and urban sprawl.”

The law will protect the Highlands, which includes Torne Valley and the Ramapo Mountains. Engel was an original sponsor of this legislation.

## Congressman Engel Obtains \$11 Million in Federal Funds for Rockland

Since the beginning of the year, Congressman Eliot Engel has been able to obtain over \$11 million in Federal funds and grants for Rockland County.

The Federal funds and grants include Community Orientated Police Services (COPS) grants of \$98,664 for the Rockland County Sheriff and \$39,466 for the Clarkstown Police Department to assist in crime fighting.

The Rockland Housing Coalition received \$32,190 to provide housing services. The Clarkstown Community Task Force was awarded \$99,989 to combat drug abuse among minors and the Monsey Community Outreach Center’s after school programs received \$197,329. Rockland County obtained \$1,704,000 in housing funds and the Rockland Economic Development Corporation received \$146,500 for its job creation work.

The Town of Rampao and Village of Spring Valley’s Housing Authorities received over \$440,000 and Clarkstown Central School District got a Fund for Improving Education grant of \$124,000 to help give children a better education. These and other Federal funds will assist improve Rockland’s quality of life.

## IRS Again Agrees to Keep the West Nyack Tax Center Open

When the IRS closed the West Nyack IRS’s Taxpayer Assistance Center in 2004, Congressman Engel took action and had it reopened. This year the IRS again said it would close the center, and he took action to stop them again.

As *The Journal News* wrote in a July 15, 2005 editorial, “U.S. Rep. Eliot L. Engel knows what official Washington does not seem to get through its head: that a river and a very busy bridge separates Rocklanders from what could become their ‘local’ IRS tax center.” The closing would have forced Rockland residents to go to White Plains, Paramus, or New York City for assistance.

**Congressman Eliot Engel addressing seniors at the Spook Rock Library concerning his opposition to privatization of Social Security and his efforts to protect Americans from losing their guaranteed benefits to finance risky private accounts.**

## Engel Sponsors Health Care Legislation

Congressman Engel sponsored three important pieces of legislation to provide health insurance to millions of uninsured New Yorkers.

The Small Business Health Insurance Promotion Act would create a 50% tax credit to help small businesses and the self-employed with the costs of health coverage. Currently, over half of America’s uninsured workers are self-employed or work for a small business with fewer than 50 employees.

The FamilyCare Act would lower costs and expand affordable coverage for working parents by making the parents of children eligible for the State Children’s Health Insurance Program and Medicaid also eligible for coverage.

And the Medicare Early Access Act would allow people between the ages 55 and 64 to purchase Medicare.

“Millions of hard working, uninsured Americans go to bed every night worrying what will happen to them and their families if a major illness or injury strikes. This is a national disgrace. I will fight to have Congress move forward on this legislation,” Congressman Engel stated.

