

## CASTLE PRAISES I-95 FIFTH LANE PROJECT COMPLETION -- December 2, 2008

Says enhancement will improve business efficiency, fuel consumption

Wilmington, DE -- Today, just days after many travelers battled the Thanksgiving traffic on I-95, Delaware Congressman Mike Castle joined with other state and local officials to announce the completion of the I-95 fifth lane project in Delaware (the event took place at the I-95 Service Area between Exits 1 and 3). The I-95 fifth lane project began in May 2007 and was completed this fall. The project added a fifth lane along I-95 in both the northbound and southbound directions. R.E. Pierson Construction of New Jersey was able to complete this project in a year and a half less time than, and 8 million dollars below, the original engineer's estimates.

"With 250,000 vehicles traversing this stretch of highway every day - and far more during the holiday season - the completion of the fifth lane project could not have come soon enough," said Rep. Castle at today's event. "Recent studies have found that commuters in Delaware spend approximately 111,000 hours and 70,000 gallons of fuel sitting in delays, for a total cost of about \$2 million every year. This enhancement is a vital step forward that will greatly improve business efficiency and cut fuel consumption for those who travel I-95 daily."

Rep. Castle continued his statement by pledging his support for such infrastructure improvement projects in the months ahead. The Delaware Congressional Delegation has secured approximately \$60 million for Delaware Turnpike improvements over the last five years.

Rep. Castle has always considered infrastructure improvements a top priority in Congress. Last summer, he joined with his colleague, Democratic Congressman Michael Capuano of Massachusetts, in introducing the National Highway Chokepoint Congestion Relief Act. This legislation is designed to better utilize our limited transportation resources by identifying the most congested, high-demand areas of the country - like the Delaware Turnpike - and prioritizing highway funding to meet the needs of travelers.

Rep. Castle has also consistently worked closely with Senator Carper and other leaders to expand federal support for Amtrak, SEPTA, and transit systems like the DART bus - all of which play a key part in alleviating congestion in this region.

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