



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

NEWS RELEASE

AUGUST 23, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: JON SCHNEIDER
PHONE: (631) 696-6500**

BISHOP SECURES FEDERAL ROLE FOR MASTIC EVACUATION ROUTE

*Congressman, Local Officials Announce more than \$1 Million
in New Federal Funds for Mastic Area*

MASTIC, NY - Congressman Tim Bishop held a press conference today to announce that the federal government will be taking a role in making a Mastic Evacuation Route a reality. Bishop and local officials announced more than \$1 million in new federal funding to make general improvements to Mastic Beach roads and to perform an emergency evacuation study for Mastic residents. The funding for improvements was included in the transportation and highway bill recently passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush. The event was held at the intersection of the railroad tracks and William Floyd Parkway in Mastic, currently a major bottleneck in an emergency.

Bishop expressed concern about the safety of the residents living in the greater Mastic area. Natural and man made boundaries surrounding the area create a potentially hazardous situation for the more than 42,000 residents south of the Long Island Rail Road between Smith Road and Forge River in the event of a major hurricane.

"The William Floyd peninsula has experienced significant flooding in the past and concerns about future natural disasters have grown as the population has grown," Bishop stated. "All levels of government, emergency responders, and civic leaders must participate in this discussion of protecting lives and property."

Bishop was joined at the event by Suffolk County Legislator Peter O'Leary, Town of Brookhaven Superintendent of Highways John Rouse, Councilman Ed Hennessey and first responders and civic leaders from Mastic, Mastic Beach and Shirley.

"I want to thank the Congressman for getting so much federal funding," O'Leary said. "Roadway and infrastructure improvements are much needed for this area, particularly in the event of an emergency."

O'Leary and the William Floyd Community Summit requested the evacuation study, which will receive \$800,000. Bishop also secured \$320,000 for general road improvements in the Hamlet of Mastic Beach at the request of Rouse.

"This has become a familiar sight for me, walking this town with Congressman Bishop, and discussing transportation money he has secured for Brookhaven," Rouse said. "On behalf of my entire department, I want to thank the Congressman for all his work."

The funding is part of more than \$30 million Bishop secured for the Town of Brookhaven and nearly \$45 million overall for the congressional district. The funding will become available as of

October 1, and can be spent within the next five years.

"I want to make particular note of Congressman Bishop for getting involved in this community, rolling up his sleeves and getting the job done," Hennessey said.

In addition to this funding, Bishop also secured \$4.8 million in the Transportation Bill for improvements to Montauk Highway in the Mastic area.

#