

For Immediate Release

March 4, 2009

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Federal recovery dollars to aid Route 9 transportation projects *Local school cuts also restored*

AUGUSTA – State Rep. Stacy Dostie, D-Sabattus, announced Wednesday that the Maine Department of Transportation will receive \$11.1 million in federal economic recovery funds to reconstruct nearly seven miles of Route 9. The project will begin one-third of a mile north of Route 196, and extend 6.75 miles northeast across Route 9, including a Maine Turnpike overpass.

“Construction on Route 9 is long overdue,” said Dostie, a Sabattus native. “Not only will this project provide good jobs in a tough economy, but it will also make this road more functional to carry goods and services, providing more economic benefits for Sabattus.”

The Transportation Department identified a number of projects around the state that were highest on its priority list and is ready to begin construction as soon as the bidding process is complete. The state has set a goal of completing all projects during the upcoming construction season.

Federal economic recovery dollars will also be used to mitigate cuts to local education budgets.

“It’s a big relief for Sabattus and Greene schools to know this money is coming,” said Dostie. “We can restore the cuts made under difficult budget constraints at the beginning of this year. Education is an area where we can’t afford to skimp – today’s investments in our children are tomorrow’s economic gains.”

While the upcoming biennial budget for fiscal year 2009 to 2011 will still have to close an \$838 million dollar budget gap, support for schools will not drop further and there will be a one-time infusion of federal dollars from other parts of the recovery package.

Further information about how the recovery package funds will be invested will be available in the following weeks. All funding may be tracked online at <http://www.maine.gov/governor/baldacci/policy/Recovery2009.shtml>.