

# Congresswoman Lois Capps

*23<sup>rd</sup> District of California*

*www.house.gov/capps*

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Contact: Emily Kryder

202-226-7747 (Office)

202-225-6513 (Cell)

## **Capps Announces Over \$2.5 Million in Economic Recovery Funding for New Intermodal Transit Center and Cleaner Buses in Santa Maria**

*American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Money Will Help Make  
Public Transportation More Affordable, Accessible, and Energy  
Efficient*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Lois Capps announced today that Santa Maria Area Transit (SMAT) will receive \$2,548,940 immediately from the Department of Transportation and Federal Transit Administration through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), which Congress enacted with Capps’ support in February of this year. The funding will be used to expand the existing transit system to better serve the growing transportation needs in the Santa Maria area.

**“This is another way the Recovery Act is working for Santa Maria,” Capps said. “This investment will create and save jobs today and benefit our community in the years to come. Public transportation services, like those offered by our local transit agencies, have become all the more important with the downturn in the economy. I fully support providing my constituents with access to more affordable and environmentally-friendly transportation choices. By helping with the construction of a new intermodal transit center and purchasing badly needed replacement buses and vans for the cities of Santa Maria and**

**Guadalupe, the Federal government is doing its part to help meet the growing transportation needs of our community.”**

The ARRA funding announced today is in addition to the \$965,000 secured by Capps in the fiscal year 2008 and fiscal year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations bills for the construction of the new Intermodal Transit Center in Santa Maria. The new center will include buildings for customer service and bus pass sales, in and outdoor bus passenger waiting areas, and 16 bus bays. In addition to Santa Maria Area Transit, The Breeze intercity service, Guadalupe Flyer, the Clean Air Express interregional service, and the San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority Route 10 will each utilize the new transit center. The funding provided today also applies to replacing two heavy-duty 40 foot buses, and applies the funds toward the purchase of five Type III 27 foot vans that have an expected useful life of seven years. Lastly, the grant will replace one low-floor heavy-duty 40 foot bus for the City of Guadalupe.

**“We’re very appreciative of the efforts of Congresswoman Capps to ensure the final award of \$2.54 million in Federal stimulus funding to the City of Santa Maria’s public transit program,” said Santa Maria Mayor Larry Lavagnino. “SMAT serves more than 1 million riders per year, and public transit is an increasingly desirable alternative to rising gas prices and congested roads. With this funding, SMAT riders will see new buses and vans enter service later this year, replacing old and worn vehicles.”**

**Mayor Lavagnino added, “The City has also outgrown its transit center and has acquired nearby land along Miller Street for a new intermodal transit center that will consolidate all public transit operations in the region into one convenient hub location. The Federal stimulus funding, combined with other Federal funding secured by Congresswoman Capps, will assist in construction of the new center, which the City anticipates will start early next year.”**

**“We’re very grateful to Congresswoman Capps for supporting the funds for the new bus for Guadalupe,” said Guadalupe Mayor Lupe Alvarez. “For a small town of 6,500, our bus ridership is well over 100,000 per year. Our riders will benefit greatly from this new bus, which will stimulate the local economy and will allow for our residents to continue reaching their important destinations.”**