

## Michaud Announces \$776,000 in Federal Funding for Acadia Gateway Center

Tuesday, September 09 2008

WASHINGTON, DC -

Today, Congressman Mike Michaud announced that the Federal Transit Administration has awarded the Maine Department of Transportation \$776,000 in funding to help with construction of the maintenance center, storage, and office space for Downeast Transportation, the operator of the Island Explorer and year-round transit services in Hancock County.

WASHINGTON, DC -

Today, Congressman Mike Michaud announced that the Federal Transit Administration has awarded the Maine Department of Transportation \$776,000 in funding to help with construction of the maintenance center, storage, and office space for Downeast Transportation, the operator of the Island Explorer and year-round transit services in Hancock County.

"I am pleased that the Federal Transit Administration has released this funding. It will continue the investment in the intermodal facility to relieve seasonal congestion and preserve the Acadia National Park experience," said Michaud. "This project will reduce operating costs, fuel usage and improve the storage of vehicles and the security of the fueling system."

The Island Explorer is a nationally recognized propane powered bus system which has made a significant impact reducing the effects of congestion and pollution in Acadia National Park and surrounding Mount Desert Island. The maintenance center and associated facilities will not only give the Island Explorer a permanent home base, but will allow the bus system to grow as needed, and provide better service for commuters and day visitors to Acadia National Park. For more information on the Acadia Gateway Center, visit <http://www.acadiagatewaycenter.com>.

The Acadia National Park Improvement Act, a bill that Michaud authored, became public law on May 8, 2008 as a part of S. 2739, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008. Passage of the bill made important changes and updates to the statute controlling the operation of Acadia National Park. Among other provisions, the bill allows for additional federal participation and improvements to the Island Explorer bus system.

# # #