

(Washington, DC) – U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-4) presented Lawrence County today with checks of \$500,000 for the Millennium Park economic development project and \$750,000 for transportation safety upgrades at the Route 60/422 Interchange, which are required as part of the future I-376 project. Congressman Altmire secured this funding in the final budget passed by Congress in December.

**“Millennium Park and the Future I-376 projects are critical to the creation of high-paying, quality jobs in Lawrence County,”** said Congressman Altmire. **“The County and its communities have done a great job in identifying these projects as priorities, and I am pleased to do my part in providing \$1.25 million to advance both. Once complete, everyone will see that Lawrence County is an ideal location to start, grow or relocate one’s business .”**

**“The Commissioners and residents of Lawrence County appreciate Congressman Altmire’s efforts in realizing what the redesignation of Route 60 to Interstate I-376 and Millennium Park means to Lawrence County,”** said Commissioner Richard DeBlasio. **“Lawrence County is located right in the middle of the Cleveland-Pittsburgh metro area and the effort of Congressman Altmire in securing these funds will greatly enhance both projects.”**

The Millennium Park project is critical to attracting new businesses and skilled jobs to Lawrence County. The location – along the future I-376 corridor, near Interstates 79 and 80, and accessible to both the Pittsburgh and Cleveland metro areas – makes it an ideal site for future business growth. As many as 2,000 high-quality jobs with an economic impact of over \$65 million are expected to be created once the project is complete.

**“Congressman Altmire’s contributions to these projects speak volumes of his commitment to Lawrence County and the region,”** added Commissioner Steve Craig. **“The redesignation of Route 60 to Interstate 376 is vitally important to the industrial future of Lawrence County.”**

In order for Route 60 to be officially designated as I-376, an estimated \$15 million is required to meet federal safety standards and install signage along the route in Lawrence County. After today’s presentation of the \$750,000, the remaining portion needed for the project in Lawrence County will be \$2.1 million. Once the designation is made, thousands of new jobs are expected to be created as businesses consider relocating or expanding to sites along the future I-376 corridor.

**“The redesignation of Route 60 to Interstate 376 remains one of the Commissioners’ highest priorities,”** said Commissioner Dan Vogler. **“We appreciate Congressman Altmire’s support in working with us to bring about the redesignation from Allegheny County through Beaver and Lawrence Counties all the way to Interstate 80 in Mercer County.”**

Today’s presentation builds on Congressman Altmire’s efforts to create local jobs and

strengthen the economy of Lawrence County. Earlier this year, he provided Jameson Health System with \$296,000 for the renovation of its emergency department and Lawrence Co. Social Services with \$121,000 for its early childhood education program. In addition, he has led the effort to create the Pittsburgh-Cleveland Tech Belt to capitalize on the region's shared resources and expertise to bring jobs and attract businesses to the area.