



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Senator Baddour announces important step forward in I-93/Lowell Junction project**

*Approval paves way for environmental impact study*

**April 18, 2007 Boston** – Senator Steven A. Baddour (D-Methuen) announced an important step forward in the approval process for the proposed I-93/Lowell Junction Interchange Justification Report.

The Federal Highway Administration granted preliminary approval to the state's request to move forward with the IJR for the I-93 project proposed in the Andover, Wilmington and Tewksbury area. This announcement allows the IJR to move forward to the next phase of the project, an environmental impact study.

“I am very pleased that the Federal Highway Administration has seen the merits of this proposal, and hope that we continue to be successful moving forward. This interchange will not only bring access to an important region of our state, but will also pave the way for critical investment and economic development and job growth opportunities,” stated Senator Baddour. “I would like to thank Senator Kennedy for all of his hard work on this project, and look forward to continue working with him as we move forward.”

In March, at Senator Baddour's urging, Massachusetts' Secretary of Transportation Bernard Cohen contacted the Federal Highway Administration urging them to continue the review of the proposal and expedite the decision on this step of the process. Senator Baddour also spoke to United States Secretary of Transportation Mary E. Peters about the importance of this project when he traveled to Washington, D.C. in February for a Transportation Leadership Summit at the White House.

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