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## **Shuster, PennDOT Announce Major Transportation Project to Improve Mobility in Altoona**

*Washington, DC* –Today, **Congressman Shuster** joined State Rep. Rick Geist, representatives from PennDOT, the Mayor Hippo and Sandy Schwabenbauer, President Juniata Business Association at Peterman’s Florist in Altoona today to announce the start of an important transportation project that will improve access along the Juniata section of Altoona.

“Improving our transportation infrastructure adds fuel to the engine of economic development,” said Congressman Shuster. “The increased access this project will provide to businesses throughout the Juniata Business District will create an environment where business can thrive and jobs can be created. I am proud to have played a part in making this project happen.”

Tom Prestash, District Executive of PennDOT’s Engineering District 9 said, “Although the Juniata Transportation Improvement Project is only a small part of a much larger dream to make a northern access from Interstate 99 into the City of Altoona, this project will bring earlier benefits to stakeholders along this corridor.”

“It is exciting to have Congressman Shuster help Altoona improve one of our most significant gateways,” said Mayor Wayne Hippo. “Utilizing this money in this way will have a dramatic impact in improving the appearance of our great city.”

The \$3 million Juniata Transportation Improvement Project will improve access to the northern sections of the City of Altoona by widening the intersection of N. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street to accommodate truck traffic and turning movements by large vehicles. The intersection improvement will advance safety and mobility at that intersection as well as provide increased opportunities for economic development in both the Juniata Business District as well as to the remainder of the city.

Other work to be done within the scope of the project include milling and overlay of the existing street, improved drainage, sidewalks and aesthetic improvements from N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street to N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Congressman Shuster secured \$2.4 million for the improvement project in the highway bill.

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