

*Congressman Secured More Than \$1.3 Million For Uptown Kingston Rehabilitation Upgrades*

*Kingston, NY* - City of Kingston officials today unveiled the Pike Plan Design to Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and the public. City officials also provided a demonstration of how the work will transform the porticos along Wall and North Front Streets and help boost economic development in Uptown Kingston. Hinchey has previously secured more than \$1.3 million in federal funding for the rehabilitation of Uptown Kingston.

"I'm very pleased with the plans for the redevelopment of Uptown Kingston and am happy that I was able to secure a significant level of federal funding for the Pike Plan project in order to relieve the financial burden on local and state taxpayers," Hinchey said. "This redevelopment project is part of our ongoing effort to spur economic growth throughout the City of Kingston. A redeveloped Uptown Kingston will further beautify the area and make it more attractive to businesses, residents, and visitors."

In an attempt to improve the uptown area in the 1970's, a local architect designed and constructed a series of porticos rising above the sidewalks in Uptown Kingston. The design became know as the Pike Plan and has defined the architectural character of the district ever since. Over time, the porticos have fallen into disrepair and the commission responsible for its maintenance, the Pike Plan Commission (an incorporated Business Improvement District) has undertaken its restoration. The redesign of the Pike Plan calls for reconstruction of the portico along Wall Street and North Front Street and facade improvements to the buildings within the Pike Plan.

Hinchey had \$1.04 million for the Uptown Kingston rehabilitation project included in the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU) measure that Congress passed several years ago. Those funds were subsequently cut by the Bush administration to \$860,000. Subsequent to that, the congressman obtained \$500,000 from the U.S. Department of Transportation for the project, bringing the total amount of federal funds to \$1.36 million in federal funds.

Additionally, the Pike Plan Commission, working with the City of Kingston and Rural Ulster Preservation Company (RUPCO) was awarded a \$200,000 grant from the New York State Department of State's Main Streets program for portions of the redesign project. The city is

bonding an additional \$100,000.

"We're pleased to see the Pike Plan moving forward," said New York State Regional Director Joan Dupont. "The Department is dedicated to supporting local projects that improve pedestrian access and safety in the Hudson Valley."

In addition to work on the porticos, the city will also reconstruct sidewalks and curbs and install lights and plantings outside of the Pike Plan in the Historic Stockade District. The money that Hinchey secured will help to defray some of the costs of the project associated with sidewalks, curbs, lighting and streetscaping.