

# Governor Martin O'Malley Announces Funding for Harriet Tubman Visitor Center

## Memorial to Freedom Fighter slated to open in 2013, 100 years after her death

**Cambridge, MD (August 16, 2011)** – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded the State of Maryland \$8.5 million in Federal Transportation Enhancement Program funding for construction of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center in Dorchester County. This is the final funding component necessary for the \$21 million project of national significance to move forward.



The construction is estimated to support as many as 225 local jobs in all facets of the construction industry over the course of a year. In addition, Harriet Tubman State Park, the site of the center, will directly support 10 full-time employees as well as spinoff jobs related to hospitality, tour guides and recreational activities. Upon completion of the center, visitation to the park is anticipated to grow to more than 200,000 annually, with an anticipated long-term economic impact of \$20 million annually.

“Once complete, the Visitor Center will honor one of our nation’s great and courageous heroes,” said Governor O’Malley. “Like Marylanders today, Harriet Tubman understood that we progress as a people not on the weakness, but on the strength of our neighbors. This Visitor Center is a step forward in promoting Maryland’s critical role in the fight for freedom, in recognizing the efforts of a remarkable Marylander, and for creating new jobs on the Eastern Shore. Together, we can educate and share the story of how Tubman and those like her changed the course of American history, bending the arc toward justice.”

The long-awaited Visitor Center, 10-miles south of Cambridge on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, is the key component of an effort to create a Scenic Byway and National Historical Park honoring Maryland