

...picking that would bring money and jobs to the region, state and federal lawmakers said Friday.

Most of official Long Island — U.S. representatives, state and local officials and top business executives — were on hand at the Fox Hollow Inn in Woodbury, where Sen. **Charles Schumer** (D-N.Y.) and State Senate Majority Leader **Dean Skelos** (R-Rockville Centre) talked about bills in Congress and the State Legislature aimed at funding construction projects.

...tion projects since the national recession began in the fall of 2008. Herbst said, however, that Congress and the State Legislature have showed signs that lawmakers recognize the need for such funding.

Schumer said he is optimistic legislation will pass Congress this spring that will pay for public transit and highway projects and create jobs across the country. Transportation legislation passed a key hurdle in the Senate last week

move Democrats viewed as a victory.

Schumer said he is urging the state to use some of the \$65 million it would get from the legislation for needed repairs on the Long Island Expressway and Hempstead Turnpike, the subject of a recent Newsday series pointing out dangerous intersections.

"It looks for the first time in years that we should get a good, robust highway bill," Schumer said.



Sen. Charles Schumer tells local contractors in Woodbury Friday he's hopeful Congress will soon approve transit and road funding.

Skelos said state Republicans and the Democratic governor, **Andrew M. Cuomo**, worked together last year on

an on-time budget and a tax cap. He predicted similar bipartisan action on transportation funding.

PHOTO BY HOWARD SCHNAPPE

# Students get onboard with smart transit data



Stony Brook grad Xincheng Zhang, Prof. Jennifer Wong, transportation fleet manager David McAvoy and office of sustainability director James O'Connor helped devise a campus bus information system.

## TECHNOLOGY

When it comes to business, some students at Stony Brook University are learning a valuable lesson — the customer needs information.

So about 15 graduate and undergraduate computer science students worked for the past year putting together a global positioning system for the campus buses. The system is now being tested on five of the vehicles, and in a year or so will be on all 35. The system, called SBU Smart Transit, sends data on a bus' location and also how many passengers are onboard to a central campus server. The data is routed to campus websites. Apps for iPhone, Android and BlackBerry are planned for release before this summer.

**James O'Connor**, director of the college's office of sustainability, said the campus has not had such a system in place before. O'Connor added that the system is "homegrown."

**Jennifer Wong**, an assistant professor of computer science

who oversaw the project, said the students were involved in producing the software. "We bought off-the-shelf hardware and we built a flexible system that allows us to build future advanced elements into the system," Wong said.

Students waiting for a bus will know when it is coming, and will know the number of passengers onboard. They can then decide to get on the bus or wait for another.

The project, Wong said, gave the students "an opportunity to see the needs of the customer and how the customer is benefiting from the system. It's great to see all their hard work being utilized."

**Xincheng Zhang**, 22, who graduated last December and worked on the system, building a website and working on apps, is now working at Stony Brook's Center of Excellence in Wireless and Information Technology. He said he is also applying for graduate school.

The project was among the highlights of his college years, he said. "It was a great learning experience."

PHOTO BY JOSEPH D. SULLIVAN