



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Weekly Briefing

July 17, 2009



Missouri Department
of Transportation

- All of the State governors received a letter from Transportation Secretary LaHood on the issue of funding of projects in economically distressed areas (EDAs). The letter both congratulates the states on their progress and urges them to use any remaining funds that are saved from low bids to support projects in EDA areas.
- States are strongly encouraged to have the percentage of Recovery Act funding for projects in EDAs significantly exceed the percentage of the population in EDAs. In Missouri, MoDOT is achieving this goal so far with an EDA population of 52.8 percent and an EDA Obligation of 61 percent.
- Work continues in the process to submit for consideration in the TIGER Discretionary Grants program, a project to reconstruct approximately 30 miles of Interstate 70 using the dedicated truck-lane concept in Saline and Cooper Counties. MoDOT has submitted data to the Department of Economic Development to make four REMI model runs to demonstrate the economic benefits of not only this 30-mile section, but also for the eventual 200-mile corridor between Kansas City and St. Louis.
- Missouri has been awarded two Recovery Act Ferry Boat Discretionary grants totaling over \$1.1 million for two projects. The first project, in Mississippi County will provide funds to construct a new barge, significantly improving the capacity, safety and speed of the Dorena-Hickman Ferry. The second project, for the Canton Ferry in Lewis County will allow for the construction of durable and heavy vehicle ramps, safety swing gates and a hard surface road and staging area. Both of these projects are within EDAs.
- As noted on a conference call today, Office of Administration will make a specific announcement by July 23 regarding a vendor to provide software for the centralized reporting of Recovery Act data.
- On July 6, MoDOT submitted to Federal Railroad Authority (FRA), a pre-application for the high-speed intercity passenger rail program. The application, totaling over \$200 million, contained approximately \$150 million for rail infrastructure improvements and \$50 million for modern, efficient equipment for Missouri rail. FRA announced this week they had received 278 pre-applications from 40 states totaling \$102 billion for the \$8 billion in Recovery Act funds available.

Important Dates

- July 20 – Monthly Summary Employment Report due to FHWA
- August 5 – MHTC meeting

All current MoDOT reports for Recovery Act projects can be found on MoDOT's Ready To Go Web site at the following link: <http://www.modot.mo.gov/arra/DocumentsandTransparency.htm>.