



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Weekly Briefing

July 24, 2009



Missouri Department
of Transportation

- The grant contract is in the works for MHTC and Bi-State METRO St. Louis for the \$12 million in ARRA budget stabilization funds. METRO will take that money and reinstate on Monday, August 3, some of the transit services that were cut back in March of this year. Those restored services will assist low-income persons with better access to jobs in the St. Louis region.
- On July 8, MHTC awarded two transportation enhancement (TE) Recovery Act projects. This includes \$680,000 in Recovery Act funds to construct ADA compliant curb ramps on "The Strip," (Rte. 76) in Branson, Missouri and 7.1 million for the Marston/Hayti Welcome Centers. The notice to proceed date for the Branson project is Monday, and the date for the welcome centers is August 10.
- For the July letting, there are 4 MoDOT administered Recovery projects with program amounts totaling \$34 million and 1 sub allocated Recovery Act project with a program amount of \$9.7 million.
- As of July 24, 11% of suballocated funds have been obligated, 102 projects (\$233 million) have been obligated in economically distressed areas (EDA) and 27.1 million dollars has been expended.
- On Monday, Chairman James Oberstar of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee sent a letter to the Governors, addressing the Recovery Act projects, state performance and additional reporting requirements. The following are highlights from the letter.
 - In September, the committee will begin highlighting the best and worst performers in implementing Recovery Act transportation and infrastructure programs. This comparison will be based on percentage of allocated funds with projects under contract and projects underway. This includes monies suballocated to MPOs!
 - Two new due dates for reports have been added to the committee's reporting requirements, along with the requirement to submit a "brief, formal written response detailing the extent to which your State has complied with the statutory requirement that States give priority to highway projects that are located in economically distressed areas." This includes noting the percentage of Missouri's total allocated Recovery Act highway funds that have been obligated to economically distressed areas and how the state has ensured that highway formula funds are distributed equitably.
- In remarks at the Center for National Policy, Transportation Secretary LaHood commented that, "People can disagree about which projects deserve funding, but so far, in all 50 states and territories, not a single case of serious abuse of funds has been identified. Not one. That's a remarkable achievement for a program moving at this pace - - perhaps even unprecedented. And it shows that we're doing this the right way."



- Secretary LaHood also stated, “The perception that we haven’t moved quickly enough is simply not true. The fact is we’ve moved money out the door nearly twice as fast we do for some of our regular formula programs. To date, we’ve made nearly half our funds – over 21 billion dollars – available to the states so they can green-light priority projects to rebuild and modernize roads, bridges, transit systems, airports, and seaports. We’ve got real momentum going here. So far, over 6,300 transportation projects have been approved. Remember, too, that the outdoor construction season is still ramping up. That means thousands more projects, thousands more jobs, and billions more stimulus dollars are still waiting to be activated.”

Important Dates

- August 5 - MHTC meeting
- August 10- FHWA Monthly Project Status report due
- August 10- Maintenance of Effort certification report due
- August 20 - FHWA Monthly Employment Summary report due
- August 24- Application for High Speed Intercity Rail Program Grant due
- September 15- TIGER grant application due date
- ***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>.