

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Provides \$175.5 Million for Surface Transportation

The following requirements apply to the funding for roads and bridges:

- Funding is provided by formula
- All funds flow through state DOTs
- 50% of the funds must be obligated within 120 days
- Remaining 50% must be spent within one year
- 67% to be used on state highways and roads
- 19% for state & local projects in communities with populations less than 5,000
- 11% projects in communities with populations greater than 200,000
- 3% for transportation enhancement projects (sidewalks, bike paths, waysides etc)
- Use it or lose provisions apply
- All projects must be in a current State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP - Amendment #18 for Alaska is out for public comment)
- No state match is required

In preparation for receipt of federal stimulus funds the department identified projects meeting the following criteria:

- Able to obligate funds for construction within 1 year
- Have completed all phases in accordance with federal regulations

This set of projects was then prioritized using the following criteria:

1. Primary purpose is to improve road safety
2. Located in economically distressed areas as defined in the bill
3. Provides gas pipeline logistical benefits
4. Leverages dollars from other sources such as the Denali Commission
5. Construction can begin ("turn dirt") in 2009

The attached spreadsheet presents the projects separated into 3 categories:

1. Recommended Projects - projects the department recommends for economic stimulus funding
2. Contingent Projects - projects the department recommends if additional funds become available from other states under the "use it or lose it" provisions.
3. Ineligible Projects - projects that had been considered for inclusion and may have appeared on lists but based on the final ARRA provisions are no longer eligible.

\$41.6 M in funds for transit projects

- \$32.5 M - directly to Anchorage and Fairbanks with a portion to the Alaska Railroad.
- \$9.1 M for projects elsewhere in the state with funding going thru DOT&PF
- Transit funding can only be spent on capital expenditures such as:
 - Buses and bus stops and Administrative buildings
 - Passenger service and administrative vehicles

Department staff surveyed the universe of previous transit recipients to develop a "needs list". Two shovel-ready transit projects for construction have been identified; the remainder of the transit funds will be allocated to vehicles and related needs, based on existing transit scoring and criteria. All eligible organizations will be notified. The transit projects are also found on the attached spreadsheet.

DOT