

NEW INFORMATION AND DEADLINES REGARDING TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AND FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION DOLLARS:

The Federal Highway Administration issued guidance Thursday, February 26th requiring state departments of transportation to submit data on projects to be funded completely or partially with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds by **March 17, 2009**. This data is to include all project names, descriptions, project rationale and other information. To complete the Ohio submission, please observe the following dates and deadlines and read the notes below.

Important Dates and Deadlines:

- **March 2, 2009** - A project information sheet will be sent via email by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to the contact person for the projects submitted to date through this website.
- **March 3, 2009 by 5:00 pm** – Final date to submit expressions of interest for transportation projects funded by the Federal Highway Administration.* Potentially eligible recipients who submit between March 2 and March 3, 2009 will receive a project information sheet via email immediately for completion.
- **March 5, 2009 by 5:00 pm** – All completed project information sheets are due back to the Ohio Department of Transportation.
- **March 17, 2009** - Completed project list is submitted by the Ohio Department of Transportation to the Federal Highway Administration.

Notes:

- **New federal criteria:** In addition to all criteria required in current law, the Federal Highway Administration's guidance issued on February 26th said that the following project criteria shall be considered during project selection: (1) Priority shall be given to projects/activities that are projected for completion by February 17, 2012; (2) Priority shall be given to projects that are located in economically distressed areas as defined by section 301 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965- map with requisite information – http://hepgis.fhwa.dot.gov/hepgis_v2/GeneralInfo/Map.aspx; (3) Preference shall be given to projects/activities that can be started and completed expeditiously including a goal of obligating at least 50% of the funds not later than June 17, 2009; and (4) Recipients shall use funds in a manner that maximizes job creation and economic benefit.
- **Funds available/Funds applied for:** The Ohio Department of Transportation and Metropolitan Planning Organizations have been allocated \$935,677,030 to spend on transportation projects via HWA funds and to date requests submitted to the website exceed \$7 billion.
- **How to know whether the State of Ohio has received your website submission of interest:** You should have received an auto reply verifying receipt of submission. If you did not, please submit information in accordance with the deadlines above.
- **Contact information for questions:** The project information sheet sent to potentially eligible recipients will contain contact information at the Ohio Department of Transportation for process and technical questions.
- **Prioritization process:** The Ohio Department of Transportation will follow state and federal law and federal agency guidance in prioritizing the list of projects for funding, based on the paper and/or electronic submissions of requested information. If further information or clarification is needed for your project, ODOT program managers will contact you.

*In addition to transportation dollars being allocated to Ohio by the Federal Highway Administration, entities in Ohio will be allowed to compete with the rest of the nation for additional transportation funding. The recovery.ohio.gov web site will continue to post updates about these opportunities.