



## **From the Desk of Lieutenant Governor Matthew Denn**

### **Reviving Delaware**

### **Stimulus Update**

**June 12, 2009**

There has been a lot of attention in the national press about the percentage of federal stimulus funds that have actually reached the states, so it is probably a good time to provide a report on where Delaware stands on that front.

A little bit of background on how federal money is transferred to states is first needed. The federal government awards states funds for specific grant programs or projects. The actual transfer of these funds, however, may not occur until several weeks after. Why is this so? In most instances the federal government and states have specific cash management rules in place such that the actual funds are not sent to the state until they are actually needed.

A good hypothetical is with capital projects (or construction) –each project has to go out to bid, and then be evaluated before one contractor is chosen. Once that contractor is chosen and the terms are set, then projects may start. This could take weeks or months to make sure that the state is getting the best offer. It would not make sense for the state to transfer this money into their account when the contractor has not been chosen, because in the meantime, the state would have to pay interest to the federal government. Once the project actually begins, the state will make periodic draw downs of funds based on the progress of the project.

Delaware has received about \$100 million of the total \$1.2 billion to date. Much of the amount awarded is going directly to preexisting programs that the Recovery Act has simply just infused more money into. For example, Medicaid, the program that provides health care to low income individuals has received a majority of the funds distributed to date. Smaller programs that have already received awards include:

- AmeriCorps
- Capital Maintenance and Restoration
- Clean Diesel
- Crime Victims Assistance
- Crime Victims Compensation
- Education for the Homeless
- Foster Care

- IDEA Part C/Birth to Three
- Independent Living
- National Endowment for the Arts
- Preventing Violence Against Women
- Public Housing Capital Fund
- School Lunch Equipment
- Unemployment and Re-employment Services
- Unemployment Benefits
- Vocational Rehabilitation

I want to specifically highlight a few of these programs that have been awarded stimulus funding so far. Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living, both which are administered under the Delaware Department of Labor, are helping those with disabilities become self sufficient through education, job training, and job placement. The new funding will allow the department to serve an additional 375 individuals with significant disabilities to help them enter (or reenter) the workforce. This is not just a social benefit, but an economic one as well. Last year, 906 Delawareans with disabilities earned annualized wages exceeding \$16 million, used \$200,000 less in public support benefits, and also paid thousands of dollars in taxes.

Independent Living, a program within Vocational Rehabilitation, provides assistive technology for persons with disabilities who are unable to work. Stimulus funding has allowed Independent Living to further maximize self-determination and independence in those they serve. This program does not have an employment goal like Vocational Rehabilitation does, but instead strives to help those who need it most to enjoy a more self sufficient life by providing home or vehicle modifications, adaptive driving equipment, and environmental control units.

Further, a number of stimulus-funded road projects are either underway or completed. So far, there are two completed traffic signal projects:

- **Frederica Fire Signal-Kent County**  
*Completed:* June 3, 2009  
*Costs:* \$53,564.12  
*Project Description:* Rebuild the fire signal to bring the signal up to current Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards.
- **Route 1 and West Way Drive, Bethany Beach-Sussex County**  
*Completed:* May 1, 2009  
*Costs:* \$67,481.52  
*Project Description:* This project involved median island and pedestrian signal upgrades; and the installation of countdown signals. Also, this project included the installation of countdown signals at Kent Avenue and West Way Drive and at Route 1 and Route 26.

There are also many transportation projects currently under construction:

- **Mill Creek & McKennans Church Road-New Castle County:**  
*Estimated Cost:* \$159,203.64  
*Project Description:* Rebuilding of the intersection, changing signal poles, installing ADA

curb ramps, upgrading the existing pedestrian signals with new LED countdown pedestrian signals.

- **Pavement & Rehabilitation:**

*Estimated Cost:* Project bid amount \$908,710.59

*Project Description:* South Walnut Street at City of Milford limits to Northwest Front Street; Shawnee Road at Blacksmith Shop Road to Fitzgerald Road. Construction will begin mid June 2009. Contractor is Mumford & Miller Concrete, Inc. Milling, paving, patching and applying hot-mix overlay, and installation of ADA curb ramps. Daytime work.

- **Pavement & Rehabilitation:**

*Estimated Cost:* Bids were received April 23, 2009. The low bidder is Harmony Construction Company at a total bid price of \$2,865,029.15.

*Project Description:* This project includes milling and paving along East Chestnut Hill Route (Route 4) eastbound and westbound from South College Avenue (Route 896) to Salem Church Road. Construction began on May 31, 2009 and is expected to end August 28, 2009, pending weather.

- **Route 13 & Memorial Drive (New Castle County):**

*Estimated Cost:* \$249,384.54

*Project Description:* Installation of crosswalks, pedestrian signals, and improved ADA curb ramps. Also, minor modifications to the signals and striping at the adjacent intersection of Route 13 & Hazeldale Avenue related to the fire department pre-emption.

- **Route 13 & Route 42 (Kent County):**

*Estimated Cost:* \$145,515.99

*Project Description:* Revising x-span to a box-span; upgrading traffic signal equipment.

- **Route 2/Kirkwood Highway & Albertson Boulevard (New Castle County):**

*Estimated Cost:* \$431,752.54

*Project Description:* Minor modifications to the signal phasing related to the southbound and right-turn movement from Albertson Boulevard to Route 2. Upgrade of pedestrian crosswalks/curb ramps/signals. Conversion of Route 2 left-turn phasing from protected/permitted to protected-only.

- **Route 202 & Righter Parkway (New Castle County):**

*Estimated Cost:* \$214,240.13

*Project Description:* Bring pedestrian signalization up to current standards, including minor modifications to right-turn movements, ADA curb ramp upgrades, and new pedestrian signal equipment including countdown signal heads. Crosswalk across Route 202 will be moved from the south to the north side of the intersection.

As always, you can keep track of all Recovery funding on our website at [recovery.delaware.gov](http://recovery.delaware.gov).

Sincerely,  
Lt. Governor Matt Denn