



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546



Office of the
Commissioner

March 17, 2010

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Dear Chief Elected Official:

Since the construction season is nearly upon us, Governor M. Jodi Rell has asked me to write to you to underscore the critical importance of prompt action on local stimulus transportation projects. As you know, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) includes a number of requirements that recipients of federal funds must meet in order to retain and fully utilize stimulus funds.

As we transition from winter to spring, we are growing concerned that many towns are not proceeding with the advertising and awarding of approved and designed transportation projects in a timely manner. The delay in advertising and awarding projects is worrisome for two reasons: 1) If the funds are not re-obligated in an expeditious manner, they will be forfeited; and 2) With the spring construction season about to begin, getting these projects started will help many Connecticut residents who are looking to return to work.

Connecticut has successfully obligated all of its ARRA transportation funding by the first federal deadline of March 2, 2010. However, the next federal deadline occurs this summer. At that time, states must have all of their ARRA transportation dollars de-obligated from one project and re-obligated to another project. If that deadline is not met, states will have to send the funds back to the Federal Government.

In order to avoid this situation, we collectively need to get these projects advertised and "on the street" as quickly as possible. Nearly all of the State's transportation projects funded by ARRA are already under way. In contrast, however, fewer than a dozen municipal projects out of the 90 funded by ARRA have actually commenced. Through a great deal of continued collaboration between the Department of Transportation (Department) and its municipal partners during the winter, these local transportation projects are now ready to be advertised.

In light of a continued competitive bidding environment, it would be to everyone's mutual benefit to advertise and award these projects at the earliest possible time. As recent history has shown, the Department anticipates some projects may receive favorable bids (i.e., bids submitted at lower prices than anticipated), thus freeing up ARRA funds. As a result, the Regional Planning Organizations (RPO) and the Department must reprogram these funds now. In order to facilitate this goal and avoid delaying the upcoming construction season, I strongly encourage all municipalities to advertise their projects immediately. If your community will not

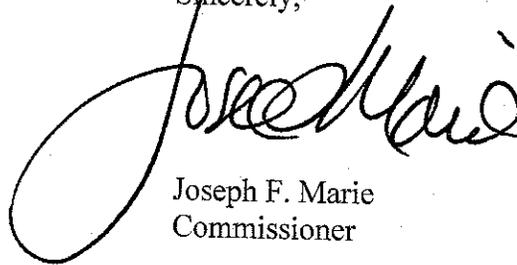
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be proceeding with the local transportation projects funded by ARRA, please contact my office immediately so that the Department can work with the respective RPO to reprogram those dollars. More importantly, however, initiating these projects as soon as possible will create immediate employment opportunities for hundreds of Connecticut residents.

I also would like to remind all municipalities that they must submit their invoices in a timely manner. It is critical that municipalities limit the time between expending funds and requesting reimbursement. The Federal Highway Administration has placed increased emphasis on requiring accurate and timely reporting on the use of ARRA funds, as well as timely acceptance and closing on all construction projects.

Your cooperation in these matters is greatly appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact my office at (860) 594-3000, if you encounter any challenges or impediments that could potentially delay the commencement of transportation projects in your area.

Sincerely,



Joseph F. Marie
Commissioner

cc: Governor M. Jodi Rell
The Honorable Donald J. DeFronzo
The Honorable Antonio Guerrero
The Honorable Antonietta Boucher
The Honorable David A. Scribner
The Honorable Christopher G. Donovan
The Honorable Donald E. Williams
The Honorable Martin M. Looney
The Honorable Lawrence F. Cafero
The Honorable John McKinney
The Honorable Denise Merrill
Mr. W. David LeVasseur – OPM
Mr. Bart Russell – COST
Mr. James J. Finley, Jr. – CCM