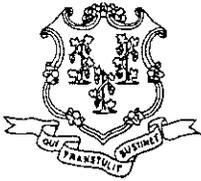


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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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Phone:

March 12, 2010

TO: Regional Planning Organization (RPO) Directors

FROM: Thomas J. Maziarz
Bureau Chief
Policy and Planning

SUBJECT: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds

The Department of Transportation (Department) would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the Regional Planning Organizations (RPOs) and respective Municipalities for diligently working together to deliver their respective projects, and for obligating all of the ARRA funds available to the State by the March 2, 2010 deadline. Please see the enclosed letter from Mr. Victor M. Mendez, Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), offering his congratulations as well.

As you may know, this was the first step in assuring the funds will be used in the manner intended by ARRA; which is to reinvest in the State's infrastructure, as well as create and sustain jobs in today's economy. As recent history has shown, the Department anticipates some projects may receive favorable bids, thus freeing up ARRA funds. As a result of this, the RPOs and the Department must reprogram these funds as soon as possible. Given the continued competitive bidding environment, it would be to everyone's mutual benefit to do this as quickly as possible. **In order to facilitate this goal and avoid delaying the upcoming construction season, this letter serves as a reminder to all RPOs and Municipalities that bids must be advertised immediately.**

In order to retain and re-obligate all leftover funds, please keep in mind the following:

- September 30, 2010 is not only the deadline for the de-obligation and re-obligation of ARRA funds, but it is also the end of the federal fiscal year for normal federal program funds.

- Although September 30, 2010 is the deadline, FHWA actually closes for business on September 15, 2010 in order to administratively process any projects before the September 30, 2010 deadline.
- In order for the RPOs and the Department to make well-informed decisions on how to utilize any leftover funds, all bids must be opened and quickly analyzed in order to accurately determine future distributions.

Also, the Department would like to remind all RPOs that Municipalities must submit their invoices in a timely manner. It is critical that Municipalities minimize the time between expending funds and requesting reimbursement. FHWA has increased emphasis on requiring accurate and timely reporting on the use of ARRA funds, as well as timely acceptance and closings for all construction projects.

Your cooperation in this matter is most appreciated.

Enclosure