



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**Connecticut Division**

April 15, 2009

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Mr. Joseph F. Marie, Commissioner  
Connecticut Department of Transportation  
2800 Berlin Turnpike  
PO Box 317546  
Newington, Connecticut 06131-7546

Subject: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Guidance on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) projects.

Dear Mr. Marie:

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has recently issued implementing guidance on the stewardship, oversight and reporting of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) projects. Further, Executive Director Jeffrey F. Paniati, in a conference call to CEOs, emphasized the increased role and presence of FHWA, as well as the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO). The goal is to promote accountability and transparency and ensure that these funds are used as specified by the Recovery Act.

I am offering the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) our assistance in the implementation of the Recovery Act. FHWA is working to ensure effective coordination and support among federal agencies. FHWA is also ready to assist ConnDOT in preparing the state and local partners to implement Recovery Act as expeditiously as possible. As you are aware, our office has been working closely with ConnDOT to communicate and coordinate the many aspects of the Recovery Act program. We know that ConnDOT is also working closely with local municipalities to enter into federal-aid agreements for the Recovery Act projects. The ConnDOT will be responsible for the reviews of municipal projects on behalf of FHWA. These reviews must ensure that the projects meet Title 23 and the Recovery Act requirements. Crucial to the carrying out the Recovery Act projects is the Title 23 requirement that the department be adequately staffed and suitably equipped to undertake and satisfactorily complete the work. As you know, when a federal-aid project is to be constructed on a facility not under your jurisdiction, you may arrange for the local public agency to administer the federal-aid project. That public agency must also be adequately staffed and suitably equipped.

In addition to the traditional state oversight responsibilities, the FHWA Division will be increasing our presence on the Recovery Act projects to meet the federal responsibilities. Nationwide, FHWA is also forming a National Recovery Act Review Team. This Review Team, made of FHWA Resource Center, Headquarters and Division staff, will travel to the States, territories and Federal Lands Highway projects to review the seven risk areas.

**MOVING THE  
AMERICAN  
ECONOMY**

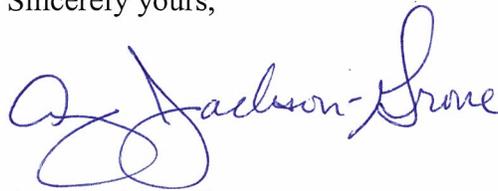


These seven risk areas highlighted by FHWA and the Office of Management and Budget are:

- Plan, Specifications & Estimate (PS&E)
- Contract Administration
- Material Quality Assurance
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Program
- Eligibility & Improper Payments
- Achieving Program Goals
- Local Public Agency (LPA) Oversight

FHWA wants to work in partnership with ConnDOT to address these risks. We ask that ConnDOT assist FHWA in taking an active role. We will be reaching out to your staff to coordinate project oversight to ensure that the risk areas are minimized. Our goal is deliver quality projects that not only improve the state and local infrastructure but meet the goals of the Recovery Act.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Jackson-Grove". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" being more prominent and the last name "Jackson-Grove" following in a similar style.

Amy Jackson-Grove  
Division Administrator