
From: Wojenski, Maribeth C

Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 1:37 PM

To: CAPITOL REGION COG (lwray@crcog.org); CENTRAL CT RPA (carl@ccrpa.org); COG CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY (pdorpalen@cogcnv.org); CONN RIVER ESTUARY RPA (crerpa@snet.net); GBRPA; HOUSATONIC VALLEY CEO (jchew@hvceo.org); jbutler@seccog.org; John Filchak (john.filchak@neccog.com); LITCHFIELD HILLS CEO (lhceo1@snet.net); MIDSTATE RPA (mrpa@snet.net); NORTHWESTERN CT COG (nwccog1@snet.net); SOUTH CENTRAL CT COG (jgott@scrcog.org); SOUTHWESTERN RPA (lapp@swrpa.org); VALLEY RPA (rdunne@valleycog.org); WINDHAM REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (director@wincog.org)

Cc: Marie, Joseph F; Boice, H.James; Parker, Jeffrey A; Martin, Albert A; Harley, Thomas A.; Sbalcio, Sebastian J.; Barone, Charles S; Asaro, Andy M; Cabelus, Robbin L; Wright, Grayson A; Iezzi, Carla A; Ryan, Neil J; Moberg, Phillip B; Livingston, Stephen P; Etuka, Rose A; Casamento, Charlene A; Lonergan, Mike W; Norman, James H; dave elder; dave hannon; dick guggenheim; jean davies; jeff cormier; jim rode; joseph Perrelli (jperrelli@cogcnv.org); Ken Ss; robert haramut; sam gold; stephen dudley; Sue Prosi ; tom Maziarz

Subject: Recovery and Reinvestment Act

[This is being sent out on behalf of Charles Barone:](#)

The Department of Transportation (Department) is continually monitoring developments in Washington concerning the American Recovery and Reinvestment Legislation (formerly referred to as the Stimulus Legislation). The most recent information on this legislation (the House version) indicates that approximately \$391,353,000 will be provided to Connecticut for Highways and Bridges, \$68,087,000 for Transit Capital and \$53,456,000 for Fixed Guide way Modernization.

Currently, 45 percent of the Highway and Bridge funding is to be sub-allocated through the existing STP sub-allocation formula. The attached document is our estimate of the sub-allocation that may become available; final sub-allocation figures will be provided by FHWA after the bill has passed.

Since the Department's initial letter to the Regional Planning Organizations (RPOs), we have learned that all funding provided will be provided through existing FHWA and FTA programs, and Title 23 and Title 49 regulations associated with those federal programs must be adhered to. Funding will be on a reimbursable basis, the stimulus funds will be capped at the time of federal authorization/bid advertisement. The municipalities may be required to cover any cost increases above this amount.

Given that these projects must comply with federal regulations, the Department and the municipalities will have to follow both preconstruction and construction procedures. Each project must receive STIP/TIP approval, and go through an environmental review, public involvement and design review process before the project can be certified for federal authorization. The municipalities will be required to advertise, award and inspect these projects in accordance with Federal and State requirements. This includes following a QBS process if a consultant is hired to inspect the project on behalf of the municipality. Costs incurred during construction will be on a reimbursable basis.

In order for the Department to provide its required oversight and obtain federal authorization, it is requested that your agency evaluate the viability of your candidates and prioritize these projects given the requirements that are to be imposed. We are requesting your cooperation in this matter now so that every possible effort can be made by our member towns and the Department in meeting the federally established deadlines for obligation of funds or project award that will be mandated by legislation.

For those RPOs that are submitting resurfacing programs, the Department is investigating developing a VIP program through DAS. A listing of each individual road with mile points must be submitted to accomplish this and all roads must be on the federal aid system. More information on this will be provided at our February 6, 2009 meeting.

Priority projects which *you* believe to be compliant with federal regulations and truly “shovel ready” should be forwarded to the Department for further evaluation. The Department will require supporting preconstruction documentation indicating compliance with requisite federal regulations, as well as bid ready plans, specifications and estimates. These materials should be submitted no later than February 23, 2009. Also, please indicate if rights-of-way are required and if they have been acquired; if the construction activities will require federal and/or state environmental permitting or utility coordination; and if there are any associated impacts to their facilities. Please send the requested documentation to Mr. Thomas Harley, Manager of Consultant Design.

In addition, Rural attributable funds may become available. These funds will be utilized in the rural areas of the state by the Department and the four rural RPOs.

In addition, the Department will be reviewing the "Enhancement Type" projects submitted, along with any state enhancement projects, to determine how best to utilize these fund should the category remain part of the sub-allocation of Highway and Bridge funds.