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**Sent:** Tuesday, January 20, 2009 2:42 PM

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**Subject:** Federal Highway Stimulus Funding - DOT Projects

To: Iowa Metropolitan Planning Organizations  
Date: January 20, 2009  
and Regional Planning Affiliations

From: Stuart Anderson, Director  
Planning, Programming and Modal Division

Subject: Federal Economic Stimulus Funding for Highways - DOT Projects

Attached is the list of Iowa DOT projects sorted by MPO and RPA in which we propose to use federal highway stimulus funding. In the case of MPOs we request that you begin the public review process necessary to approve amendments to your TIP as soon as possible. However, do not take formal policy board action on any of these amendments until after a bill has been signed. Iowa DOT will enter its projects into TPMS and will submit them for approval at the MPO level in the coming weeks. Iowa DOT projects within an RPA will soon go out for statewide public review. Once the public review period has ended and a stimulus bill has been passed Iowa DOT will seek approval for the STIP. We request that you review the list of projects with your RPA policy board but official action will not be required.

We have received numerous questions regarding the specific interpretation of Question 5 from the FHWA Q&A that was provided in our original e-mail last week. Following is Question 5 and the answer provided in the Q&A:

Q: Can economic stimulus funds be substituted for other Federal funds?

A: Yes, provided that the project on which the funds are to be used has not yet been authorized.

Several inquiries have been made about replacing other federal-aid (e.g. STP funds) with stimulus funds for projects already in the FY 2009 program but are not authorized. As the Q&A states, this is allowed; however, the issue is that doing so does not assist the state in meeting the requirements to fully supplement our current program with the stimulus funding. The substitution of stimulus funding for other federal-aid would assist the state in meeting the initial deadline of obligating, based on awarded contracts, 50 percent of the stimulus funds within 90 days but it does nothing to help the state meet the requirement that the stimulus funds be fully programmed in addition to existing programmed funds. That is, unless the federal-aid you replaced with stimulus funds is then programmed on another project that meets the follow-up deadline (i.e. obligated, based on awarded contracts, within 180 days of bill signing).

The Iowa DOT is identifying state projects that could take advantage of this stipulation to assist meeting the initial statewide deadline with the understanding that we need to identify additional projects to obligate by the final deadline. At this time, we do not want you to identify FY 09 programmed projects to use stimulus funding. We would like your list you submit on Thursday to be those projects that are new to the FY 09 program. Once we review all of your lists along with our state projects we can make an assessment of whether we, as a state, would be able to meet the initial 50 percent obligation deadline within 90 days. If our assessment concludes that we are not able to do so, we will then work with you to identify local projects that are in the FY 09 program with other federal funds and then determine if we should utilize stimulus funds to meet the 90 day deadline.

We really appreciate the hard work that is going on. As we've stated before, this process is going to evolve as we get more details on what the final bill looks like but getting this initial list of projects this week will position the state of Iowa to be prepared to meet the most challenging scenario.

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