

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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To: Town Engineers & Directors of Public Works
From: Jennifer Carrier
Date: January 15, 2009
c: Chief Administrative Officers
Subject: Economic Stimulus Funds – Recommended Transportation Projects

Attached please find a list of candidate projects for economic stimulus funds that was transmitted to the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) earlier this week. Projects submitted by towns were reviewed and evaluated by CRCOG staff. To prioritize the projects we relied primarily on our assessment of whether the projects would be ready to be advertised within 120 days. We based our assessment on our knowledge of the DOT process and requirements regarding design, permitting, and contracting. We also relied on the documentation provided by towns as to the status of their plans, and how closely the plans were prepared in accordance with DOT requirements.

Priority Groupings

Groups 1 -3 include projects that we believe have a very high probably of meeting the 120-day deadline. We separated projects into these three categories because we believe stimulus funds might be distributed among existing formula programs. This means there may be separate funds for transit projects, roadway projects, and enhancements projects (bicycle and pedestrian).

Group 4 includes projects that have the potential to be ready within 120 days, but have one or more issues that could prevent the project from being ready. We will review these projects further to determine if some of these issues can be resolved.

Group 5 includes projects that we feel will require additional design development and likely not meet the 120 day stipulation.

Funding Estimates

The amount of funding that will be available is still unknown. However, estimates are now substantially higher than the \$2-3 million we originally were told the Capitol Region could receive. The latest guidance we have been given is to assume that the amount of federal funds that the State of Connecticut receives will be double the normal annual amount. If this were to translate directly to the STP Urban funds for CRCOG, we would receive an additional \$8 million. However, Congress has discussed requiring states to give a larger share to municipal projects. If they pursue that goal, there could be a 20-25 percent set-aside for municipal projects. In that case we could receive a higher amount – possibly as much as \$10-20 million.

Next Steps

CRCOG staff will be contacting each project sponsor for projects in Groups 1-3 to discuss how to prepare for the next steps. We might also be contacting projects sponsors for projects in Group 4 to get additional information on the status of design plans and permits.

We can discuss this memorandum and the list of projects in more detail at the Transportation Committee meeting scheduled for January 26th however feel free to contact me if you have any project-specific questions or comments.