

# Capitol Region Council of Governments

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**To:** Town Engineers & Directors of Public Works  
**Copy:** Chief Administrative Officers  
**From:** Tom Maziarz  
**Date:** December 18, 2008  
**Subject:** *Economic Stimulus Package – Transportation Projects*

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ConnDOT requested that we assess all candidate projects we received and identify those projects that:

1. are transportation projects,
2. are on the Federal-Aid network,
3. meet all the design standards and requirements of the normal federal transportation programs,
4. can pass DOT's design review process,
5. have acquired necessary environmental permits (or do not require permits),
6. are sufficiently advanced in design that the project can be advertised within **120 days**. (Funds not obligated within 180 days will be redistributed to other states.)

This request is based on the assumption that H.R. 7110 or similar legislation is passed in January 2009. A link to the proposed bill is provided below.

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-7110>

**Request for Submittal of Single Best Candidate.** To comply with ConnDOT's request, we are asking each town to submit to us a single project that you believe meets all federal and state requirements and can be advertised within 120 days. We strongly recommend that you submit a roadway resurfacing project, since they typically can pass through DOT's design review process quickly and they do not require environmental permits. Other types of projects will be considered, but you must provide documentation that the design is complete, that environmental permits are secured, and that you have designed the project to meet federal and state standards.

**List of Previously Submitted Projects.** The project you submit must be from the projects you previously submitted to CRCOG for the economic stimulus package. The list of transportation projects is available on CRCOG's website at the link below.

[http://www.crcog.org/transportation/econ\\_stim.html](http://www.crcog.org/transportation/econ_stim.html)

**New Submittal Requirements.** You must complete a project description and a project cost estimate using the forms available on CRCOG's website (same link as above.) You should also submit any other materials that you feel will demonstrate that your project will meet all requirements and will be ready to advertise in 120 days. Projects will be evaluated based on their readiness so you need to make the case.

All materials should be submitted electronically by **January 6<sup>th</sup>** to Jennifer Carrier at [jcarrier@crcog.org](mailto:jcarrier@crcog.org). Questions can be directed to Jennifer (522-2217 x212) or myself ([tmaziarz@crcog.org](mailto:tmaziarz@crcog.org) or 522-2217 x214).

We urge you to contact one of us before you prepare your submittal. We will try to answer questions about eligibility, DOT design requirements, and whether your project is on the Federal-Aid network.

Please note that if you decide to submit a pavement rehabilitation / road resurfacing project, you will still be subject to the ConnDOT design review process. You will likely be required to submit design plans as well as demonstrate the following:

- that there are no significant safety, geometric, or drainage problems with the roadway,
- that catch basins have been inspected and are not in need of repair or replacement,

- that storm drain pipes have been inspected and are in good structural condition,
- that you have a plan for maintenance and protection of traffic during construction, and
- that the resurfacing will extend the pavement life for 15 years or more.

***Amount of Funding.*** There is no certainty that this particular bill will be passed or how much money might be appropriated. However, some people have estimated that Connecticut could receive up to \$130-\$140 million dollars. Since those dollars would be distributed using existing federal formulas, and we currently received about 1-2 percent of the State's allocation of federal funds as part of our STP-Urban program, we are likely to receive about \$2-3 million dollars for transportation projects in municipalities within the Capitol Region.

We expect that selected projects will be funded with 100% federal monies, as described in the draft legislation; therefore, no local match would be required. We also understand that this program is proposed as a Phase One stimulus package, with additional funding and a longer timetable to come.

***Prioritization.*** CRCOG staff will evaluate the projects that are received by January 6, and will submit a prioritized list to ConnDOT by January 12. The final list will be available for discussion and possible ratification at the Transportation Committee meeting on January 26, 2009.