



## Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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Date: March 23, 2009

To: Local Government Officials and Associations

From: Secretary Frank J. Busalacchi

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank J. Busalacchi".

Subject: Revision of Second Stage Solicitation Guidelines for Local  
Transportation Recovery Projects

On February 27, 2009, I wrote to you announcing the beginning of Stage 2 of the process of soliciting local transportation projects for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act). Since that time, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has worked continuously to move projects forward. We have worked closely with local governments and have been in regular contact with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to clarify the requirements of the Recovery Act.

A common request we have heard from local governments relates to the possibility of accelerating work from calendar year 2010 to 2009 in order to create additional and badly needed jobs as quickly as possible. Recent FHWA assurances give us confidence that we may allow this. We will consider all projects currently scheduled after January 2010 eligible for Recovery Act funding if construction activity can be accelerated by at least one construction season. This expands the number of projects potentially eligible for the Stage 2 solicitation.

Because of this expansion, we are extending the application date from April 1, 2009 to April 8<sup>th</sup> to allow more time for you to consider the projects you wish to submit. April 8<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for a complete application, not for plan submittal. By April 8<sup>th</sup>, WisDOT must receive a complete application in order to verify a project meets FHWA eligibility guidelines and confirm the project can meet required deadlines for design submittal. To allow the maximum opportunity to accommodate construction activity during the 2009 construction season, we have added an additional date for design submittals beyond the dates included in my letter of February 27<sup>th</sup>. The submittal dates for projects currently scheduled between January 1 and September 30, 2010 are as follows:

May 1, 2009: the deadline for completed plans, specifications and estimates (PS&E) submittal for projects that could possibly be ready for bid letting in late June or July of 2009; and

June 1, 2009: the deadline for PS&E submittal for projects that could possibly be ready for bid letting in late July or August of 2009.

Once WisDOT has established the eligibility of the projects submitted by April 8<sup>th</sup>, we will work with the metropolitan planning organizations and others to set priorities and establish a final list of projects to utilize the funding the Recovery Act provides for local transportation projects. We will then work with local communities to insure the projects are delivered so that we can build Wisconsin's local transportation infrastructure and create jobs.

The individual project eligibility requirements the Recovery Act sets are the same as for the usual federal-aid local programs administered by WisDOT. There is additional eligibility information attached. All the normal project review, permitting and approval processes required for federal aid projects are required for recovery projects. For local officials who would like additional information, please contact WisDOT region staff in your region as listed on the WisDOT Web site or contact your county highway commissioner.

Further detailed guidance, application forms and contact information is available on the WisDOT Web site at <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/>. The FHWA also has very good information regarding recovery projects posted on its Web site at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/economicrecovery/index.htm>. It is critical that you take an opportunity to review this information in its entirety for additional guidance. This information will be updated continually.

Once again, I want to emphasize our commitment to work cooperatively with local government officials to identify all federally eligible projects and provide the opportunity for your communities to benefit from Recovery Act funding. The transportation projects we move forward with Recovery Act funds will create job opportunities throughout Wisconsin, provide much-needed improvements to our state and local transportation system, and pave the way for continued economic growth and prosperity. I look forward to working together with all of you to support these common goals.