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**Sent:** Fri 5/15/2009 8:24 AM

**To:** WSDOT ExecList; Rupp, Mark; Satran, Jill; Bruce Botka (Bruce.Botka@gov.wa.gov); Wicker, Kelly (GOV)

**Subject:** ARRA mega program guidance published

Attached is an advance copy of the USDOT guidance, a news release, and Fact Sheet for the ARRA discretionary mega project program.

The guidance is 47 pages and I've only skimmed it.

Key points I've found so far:

1. It's an interim notice. USDOT will accept comments and suggestions about the program requirements until June 1. It may (or may not) issue supplemental guidance and criteria; if so, it will be published by June 17.
2. USDOT is requesting additional input on determining CBA and other criteria for grant selection, for project requests exceeding \$100 million.

#### **APPLICANTS**

State, local, tribal governments; transit agencies; ports; multi-state and multi-jurisdictional entities are eligible to apply.

#### **FUNDING**

- \$1.3 billion is available. (Of the \$1.5 billion, \$200 million is diverted to TIFIA, a federal credit assistance program, for which applicants can also apply.)
- Funds must be obligated by September 30, 2011.
- Grant minimum: \$20 million. Can be waived by USDOT or "funding significant projects in smaller cities, regions or states." Applications for waivers are encouraged.
- Grant maximum: \$300 million.
- No more than 20% of the \$1.3 billion can be awarded to a single State.

#### **DEADLINES**

- Applications are due September 15th.
- Awards will be announced expeditiously but no later than February 17, 2010.

#### **CRITERIA**

- Priority given to projects that can be completed by February 17, 2012 (definition: "all funds have been obligated and expended, and construction of the project is substantially complete").
- Funds "will be awarded on competitive basis to projects that have a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area, or a region."
- Primary Selection Criteria: (1) Long Term Outcomes (subcategories: State of Good Repair, Economic Competitiveness; Livability; Sustainability; Safety) and (2) Jobs Creation and Economic Stimulus.

- A detailed CBA is required for each project.
- Secondary Selection Criteria: Innovation (to accomplish primary criteria; for example, ITS, dynamic pricing, ATM; innovative financing, contracting, project delivery, congestion mgmt, etc); and Partnerships.
- Criteria USDOT will review to determine a project's readiness to proceed: project schedule; environmental approvals; legislative approvals; state and local planning; technical feasibility and financial feasibility.
- Specific criteria will be used to prioritize projects in the following areas: Bridge replacement, transit, port infrastructure.
- Additional priority to projects that create more livable communities, encourage energy efficiency, improve environment, supported by relevant public agencies with energy or environmental missions, and public housing agencies.
- USDOT will ensure an equitable balance geographically, and between urban and rural projects.

#### **SELECTION**

- USDOT will form an evaluation team consisting of technical and professional staff from the various mode divisions. Team members will evaluate and rate applications and then convene to discuss applications.
- Applications will be rated :highly recommend, recommended, or not recommended.
- Grants are more likely to be awarded to projects that are highly recommended in multiple criteria.

#### **APPLICATIONS**

- Narrative is limited to 25 pages.
- Where possible, website links to supporting documentation should be provided instead of providing hard copy.