



## **Analysis of Selected Issue Areas in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan**

*March 10, 2009*

### **Issue Area: Transportation**

**Federal administrating agency/legislation: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA)**

CMAP continues to receive many questions about the deadlines for expending funds from the Recovery Act. Illinois has until June 30, 2009 to obligate the first half of their FHWA funding and CTA, Pace and Metra must submit complete grant applications by July 1, 2009 for at least 50% of their Recovery Act funding. IDOT, CTA, Metra and Pace will have up to one year (until March 2010) to obligate and/or get under grant the second half of the FHWA and FTA funds. All locally programmed FHWA funds must be obligated by one year from apportionment (March 2010).

On March 6, the CMAP Transportation Committee approved the stimulus funded projects selected by CTA, Metra, Pace and IDOT and included them in the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). One Council of Mayors project was also approved for inclusion, contingent on Council approval and CMAP MPO Policy Committee concurrence in the approach to the locally-programmed portion of Recovery Act transportation funds. The RTA service boards have dedicated the majority of the Recovery Act funds to accelerating deferred maintenance. The stimulus funds specifically targeted to transit in the region total \$414 million, less than half of what is needed each year just to maintain our transit system in its current state of repair and makes only a small dent in the capital needs of \$10 billion over the next five years. Similarly, IDOT has programmed almost \$274 million in Recovery Act funds for northeastern Illinois and is using its transportation stimulus funds primarily on maintenance, while a surfeit of unmet maintenance needs in the region remain.

The CMAP Board meets on March 11 and the CMAP Policy Committee meets on March 12, and will address the Recovery Act, including the most efficient reporting mechanisms to be employed in the region. It is expected the Policy Committee will concur that the Council of Mayors, including the city of Chicago, will program the \$180 million available for local programming.

Information on which Council of Mayors each of the municipalities in the CMAP region participate is available on page 14 by clicking [here](#). It is anticipated that the city of Chicago will submit its recovery act-funded transportation projects for consideration at the April 24 CMAP Transportation Committee. The suburban Councils of Mayors have issued calls for projects for the Recovery Act funding and are determining whether or not to accelerate already-programmed projects or to select new projects on which to expend the Recovery Act funds. Project proposals are due to the North Shore and Northwest Councils respectively on March 11 and March 12. Their Councils will consider action on April 8. The North Central proposals are due by March 12 and a special meeting will be held on March 20 to select projects. The Central Council proposals were due on March 6 and their selection will occur on March 10. Submittals to the South Council of Mayors are due by March 18. Their Transportation Committee will act on the ARRA funded projects at its April 14 meeting. Projects are due to the Southwest Council of Mayors by March 26 and will be acted on at their meeting on March 31. On March 23 the Lake Council of Mayors will consider approving programming all of its \$11.6 million in stimulus funds on two projects that were previously to be funded by a combination of "regular" federal transportation dollars and local dollars. They will also consider whether or not to issue a call for LAPP (Local Agency Pavement Preservation) projects so that if other Councils in northeastern Illinois do not utilize their stimulus funds, the Lake County Council will be able to use those funds on their LAPP projects. DuPage projects are due on March 16 with Council action scheduled for April 2. Kane Council will be moving projects forward from the out years. The McHenry Council submittals are due by March 13 and the selection will occur on March 19. The Will Council is meeting today, March 10 to discuss its approach to programming projects with Recovery Act funding and the full Council will meet on March 25.

The Council of Mayors Executive Committee will meet during the second week of June and will assess the progress made by each of the Councils in programming and obligating their ARRA funds.

Due to the timeframe of the ARRA, IDOT will be selecting enhancement projects from those proposed in the 2008 solicitation. However, project ideas and comments for the ARRA are welcome by Governor Quinn on the State of Illinois ARRA website (<http://recovery.illinois.gov>). IDOT will finalize the selection of enhancement projects at the direction of the Governor.

It was reported in today's Sun-Times that Governor Quinn and Senator Durbin will be seeking some of the Recovery Act's high speed rail funding for developing fast trains between Chicago and St. Louis by 2014.

Finally, the region is expected to seek up to \$300 million for CREATE to utilize the discretionary funds available from the Recovery Act. The discretionary grant funded through the Recovery Act will be available through September 30, 2011.