Council of Mayors American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA) Spending Policy

Approved by Council of Mayors Executive on September 15, 2009

Using direction from the Executive Committee that 1) one hundred percent of the ARRA funds allocated to the suburban Councils are to be obligated; 2) there will be no pay-back of ARRA funds among the Councils as is done with STP funds; and 3) recognizing the urgency associated with obligating the ARRA funds, the Planning Liaisons with input from IDOT BLRS staff and CMAP are recommending certain guidelines to be observed through the March 5, 2010 letting.

IDOT has indicated the last letting to use ARRA funds will be March 5, 2010. Using the IDOT letting schedule (revised June 2009), pre-final plans for the March 5, 2010 letting are due to IDOT on October 16, 2009.

Any Council that does not have their ARRA funds allocated (pre-final plans submitted to IDOT) by September 25, 2009 will have until October 2, 2009 to reallocate funds to projects that have submitted pre-final plans or projects that can clearly demonstrate the ability to have pre-final plans submitted by the October 16, 2009 IDOT deadline. Any Council unable to reallocate funds by October 2 will have their funds rescinded for re-distribution to those Councils that have fully allocated their funding. IDOT will be requested to verify pre-final plans submittal status on October 2, 2009. On September 25, CMAP will announce the total funds available for re-distribution to ***ready to go*** projects in the region.

On October 2, each Council will submit a final list of eligible ready to go projects that could receive re-distributed funds. Ready to go projects are defined as those that have Design Approval and have submitted or can clearly demonstrate the ability to submit pre-final plans by October 16, 2009, and must be let by March 5, 2010. Ready to go projects may be ARRA "B-List" projects, STP projects[1], or "new" (not previously federally funded) projects that meet all federal criteria, as long as the pre-final plans submittal deadline has or can be met. In the case of Councils that required local match for ARRA projects, or have "partially" funded projects, re-distributed funds may be used to reduce the local match and/or provide full funding to a project scheduled for the January 2010 or March 2010 lettings.
Re-distribution of available ARRA funds shall be offered, on an equal basis, to those Councils that have met the submittal deadlines, and programmed their entire allotment of ARRA funds. If a Council has programmed their entire allotment of ARRA funds, but has no projects available to accept additional funds, they will be excluded from the re-distribution calculation. Any Council eligible to receive redistributed ARRA funds may decline their share of the redistribution. On October 6, 2009 by Noon, each Council will report to Chalen Daigle (815-334-4970 or cldaigle@co.mchenry.il.us) if they are able to use any redistributed ARRA funding. If a Council does not respond by Noon on October 6, they will be considered ineligible to receive any redistributed funding.

If a project is delayed in October or later and cannot make the March letting, the funding will be reallocated to an existing eligible and ready to go project from the final list developed on October 2, 2009. Councils will not be permitted to substitute another project from their Council that was not identified as eligible and ready to go. Councils that miss submittal deadlines after receiving re-distributed funds will not be eligible to receive any additional re-distributed funds.

The use of unobligated ARRA funds will ***not*** require a "payback" from one Council to another. No funding increases for fully funded projects will be allowed unless funding is available in January. Local match may be reduced, but the total cost of a project cannot be increased.

Notes

1. Under no circumstances should the use of ARRA funds contribute to the unobligated balance of STP funds in the region. If an STP project is changed to ARRA funding, that project *must* be replaced and the STP funds spent within FFY 2010.

Deadlines:

Friday, September 4, 2009 – Deadline for Councils to submit a preliminary list of eligible ready to go projects that could receive redistributed funds to Chalen Daigle. List will include minimum amount of funding needed per project.

Friday, September 25, 2009 – Programmed ARRA projects that have not submitted pre-final plans identified by Planning Liaisons and CMAP estimates amount of funds potentially available for re-distribution to the Planning Liaisons.

Friday, October 2, 2009 – IDOT confirmation of pre-final plans submittals for programmed projects and projects identified as eligible to receive re-distributed funds.

Deadline for internal re-allocation of funds. Deadline for Councils to submit a final list of eligible, ready to go projects that could receive redistributed funds due to Chalen Daigle

Tuesday, October 6, 2009 by Noon – Deadline for Councils to notify Chalen Daigle if they will be using redistributed ARRA funding. If a Council does not respond by Noon, they will not be able to access redistributed funds.

Wednesday, October 7, 2009 October – Redistribution of funds becomes final.

Thursday October 8, 2009 – MPO Policy Committee meeting.

Friday, October 16, 2009 – Pre-final plans due to IDOT for March 5, 2010 letting.