

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

*February 24, 2009*

### Issue Area: Transportation

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

The CMAP Council of Mayors Executive Committee will meet on March 3, the MPO Policy Committee on March 12, and the CMAP Board on March 13 to discuss the programming of Recovery Act funds. The RTA Board approved preliminary marks of \$238 million to the CTA, \$140 million to Metra and \$33 million to Pace on February 12. A [preliminary marks table](#) distributing the \$180 million available for programming by the locally elected officials is available.

The CREATE partners are working on submittals for both the \$1.5 billion supplemental discretionary grant program and the high speed rail funding included in the ARRA. The [New York Times](#) reports that the Midwest may benefit significantly from the \$8 billion for high-speed rail included in the ARRA.

Following the apportionment of the funds, states will have 120 days to obligate the first half of their FHWA funding and agencies will have 180 days to have 50% of transit funding under grants. States and agencies will have one year (anticipated to be March 2010) from the date of apportionment to obligate and/or get under grant the second half of the FHWA and FTA funds. After the redistribution of FHWA funds to the states and FTA funds to urbanized areas that have obligated at least 50% of their funds, the redistributed funds will be available through September 30, 2010.

All locally programmed FHWA funds must be obligated by one year from apportionment (anticipated to be March 2010). At that time, funds from states which have not obligated their locally programmed funds will be redistributed. The redistributed funds will be available through September 30, 2010.

The President, Congress and the regulatory agencies have all emphasized the need for transparency and accountability in the use of ARRA funds. CMAP is currently reviewing the responses to our RFP for software and staffing to assist in the tracking and

reporting on the level of jobs created and the longer-term economic benefits to the region.