

# Economic Recovery & NH Municipalities

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The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was signed by President Barack Obama on February 17, 2009. The federal government awarded \$111 billion to be divided (not necessarily equally) to all fifty states for development of infrastructure and science. Of this \$111 billion, New Hampshire is allotted \$129 million for roads and bridges, \$4-5 million for airports, and \$13 million for public transit.

NHDOT is planning to pave 760 miles of road, compared to only 250 miles it would have been able to pave without the stimulus. NHDOT Commissioner George Campbell stated, "this much-needed 760 miles of paving work will touch all parts of the state, putting people to work, helping to preserve our highway system and making a noticeable difference in the quality of the ride for motorists."

## How was the Money Secured?

Of the \$129 million, the NHDOT State Bridge Aid and Highway Aid programs secured \$11 million; while the Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) secured \$3.8 million for sidewalks, bike paths and lanes, historic transportation structures, landscaping, and mitigation for highway runoff and wildlife protection. As of February 25, 2009, NHDOT has advertised \$40 million of highway and bridge projects.

Also scheduled is a \$9.5 million pavement rehabilitation project on NH Route 101 in Epping. The project extends 9.5 miles from the east side of the Lamprey River Bridge in Epping to east of Exit 9 in Exeter.

## Stipulations on Funding

To qualify for stimulus funds, projects must be:<sup>1,2</sup>

- A bridge with length more than 20 feet and on a public highway
- Have recommended bridge postings in compliance
- A functional classification highway not including urban and local roads and rural minor collectors<sup>3</sup>
- Be "Shovel-Ready"--able to start construction within 90 days
- In NH's 10-year Plan (TYP) or in a program in the TYP and in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP).

Funds are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis for qualified projects, and more projects have been identified than funds available for them<sup>4</sup>.

## NH Economic Stimulus Office

The Governor's Office of Economic Stimulus was created with an Executive Order by NH Governor John Lynch on January 27, 2009. Governor Lynch appointed state Deputy Attorney General Orville "Bud" Fitch as office director. Bud will assist the Governor and state agencies in the management of federal stimulus funds.



The office was created to "...ensure that New Hampshire and its citizens receive maximum benefits from any federal economic stimulus package, and that those funds are used to create jobs and protect essential services here in New Hampshire." The President's website monitoring the ARRA projects that the stimulus funds should create and/or save 16,000 jobs in New Hampshire.

For more information: [www.nh.gov/recovery/programs/transportation.htm](http://www.nh.gov/recovery/programs/transportation.htm) or [www.nh.gov/recovery/aboutus/index.htm](http://www.nh.gov/recovery/aboutus/index.htm)

### References:

- [www.recovery.org](http://www.recovery.org) (Retrieved on March 24, 2009).  
[www.nh.gov/recovery/programs/transportation.htm](http://www.nh.gov/recovery/programs/transportation.htm) (Retrieved on March 24, 2009).

## Project Timeline:

- 50% of Highway and Bridge funds must be under contract before June 17, 2009
- All funds must be placed under contract before June 17, 2010
- Projects must be completed by February 17, 2012.

\*Funds not awarded by deadlines will be redistributed to other states.

NH Governor John Lynch recently stated that road resurfacing programs will use a substantial part of the federal stimulus funding<sup>5,6</sup>. The

1. [http://www.nh.gov/dot/recovery/documents/arra\\_eligibility.pdf](http://www.nh.gov/dot/recovery/documents/arra_eligibility.pdf),
2. <http://www.nh.gov/dot/recovery/documents/arra031309.pdf>
3. [http://www.nh.gov/dot/recovery/documents/arra\\_map.pdf](http://www.nh.gov/dot/recovery/documents/arra_map.pdf),
4. [http://www.nh.gov/dot/recovery/documents/arra\\_project\\_list.pdf](http://www.nh.gov/dot/recovery/documents/arra_project_list.pdf)
5. <http://www.nh.gov/dot/recovery/>
6. <http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/administration/finance/bids/bidresults/2009>