



AUGUST 14, 2009

Things are generally quiet in DC now that Congress is on recess. They will reconvene after Labor Day on September 8.

ARRA Stimulus Implementation:

FRA has released a variety of information and materials related to the High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) grant program. Grant applications for Tracks 1, 3 and 4 for individual "ready to go" projects and planning are due on August 24. Track 2 applications for corridor programs are due on October 2. FAQs on the HSIPR grants are available [here](#). Track 2 grant application instructions and forms are available [here](#). HSIPR NEPA Guidance and NEPA Tables are available [here](#).

US DOT Secretary Ray LaHood yesterday announced 50 grants totaling \$1.2B in ARRA state and local transit grants. A state by state list of projects receiving funding is available [here](#).

ARTBA released its latest summary of state DOT obligation of ARRA highway funds as of July 31, 2009. During July state and local transportation agencies obligated \$1.3B in highway funds, bringing the total so far to \$17.7B. This represents 65.7% of the \$26.9B of ARRA funds apportioned to date. So far, 15 states have obligated at least 75 percent of their funds. There are now 2,406 ARRA-financed highway construction projects underway across the country. The list of state obligations is available [here](#).

Surface Transportation Reauthorization:

On August 7, President Obama signed legislation, HR 3357, to transfer \$7B in General Funds to the highway account of the Highway Trust Fund to provide sufficient funding to reimburse state DOTs for highway expenditures for the remainder of this fiscal year, through September 30. When Congress returns in September it will have to decide whether to fund and pass a \$500B six-year authorization bill or instead pass a short-term extension of the existing program for 12 to 18 months. Even a short-term extension bill will require additional General Funds and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) has introduced a bill to transfer an additional \$26.8B to the Trust Fund.

FY'10 Appropriation Bills:

The FY'10 DOT funding bill passed by the full Senate Appropriations Committee has been filed and the committee report is available [here](#). The full Senate expects to take up the DOT bill in early September.

All twelve FY'10 appropriations bills have been passed by the House, however only four have made it through the full Senate: the Agriculture; Energy & Water; Homeland Security and Legislative Branch bills. All the others have been approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee with the exception of the Department of Defense Appropriations bill which has not yet been introduced. The following information regarding FY'10 funding for non-DOT programs was compiled by Maureen O'Neill in the PB DC office.



PB Washington Update

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Military Construction:

- Military Construction - Senate committee-passed level \$12.9 billion; House \$14.2 billion; FY'09 \$14.3 billion
- Family Housing Construction - Senate committee-passed \$2.3 billion; House \$2.0 billion; FY'09 \$3.8 billion
- BRAC 2005 - Senate committee-passed and House bills are both funded at \$7.5 billion; FY'09 \$9.2 billion

US Army Corps of Engineers: Senate \$5.4 billion; House \$5.5 billion; FY'09 \$5.4 billion

Energy Department: Strategic Petroleum Reserve – Senate \$259 million; House \$228 million; FY'09 \$205 million

EPA: Clean Water State Revolving Fund – Senate committee-passed \$2.1 billion; House \$2.3 billion

FEMA: Total Program – Senate \$7.0 billion; House \$7.3 billion; FY'09 \$7.6 billion

General Services Administration:

- Federal Building Funds limitation availability – Senate committee-passed \$8.45 billion; House \$8.5 billion; FY'09 \$8.4 billion
- Construction and Acquisitions - Senate committee-passed \$734 million; House \$722 million; FY'09 \$746 million

Labor Department: Office of Job Corps – Senate committee-passed and House bills are both funded at \$1.7 billion; FY'09 \$1.7 billion

State Department: Embassy Security, Construction and Maintenance - Senate committee-passed and House bills are both funded at \$1.7 billion; FY'09 \$2.7 billion

Veterans Affairs:

- Construction, Major Projects – Senate committee-passed and House bills are both funded at \$1.2 billion; FY'09 \$923 million
- Grants for Construction of State Extended Care Facilities - Senate committee-passed \$115 million; House \$85 million; FY'09 \$175 million
- Medical Facilities - Senate committee-passed \$4.8 billion; House \$4.9 billion; FY'09 \$5.0 billion



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Livable Communities Act:

Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT), the chairman of the Senate Banking Committee which has jurisdiction over transit programs, has introduced a bill to promote Livable Communities. The bill would authorize (subject to annual appropriations) \$400M over four years for a comprehensive planning grant program that local communities could use to create comprehensive long-term transportation, housing and land use plans, and \$3.75B (subject to appropriations) over three years for a competitive "Challenge Grant Program" to implement the plans. The funds would be administered by HUD.

The bill would also establish a federal Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities at HUD and an Interagency Council on Sustainable Communities that will include reps from US DOT, HUD, EPA and other federal agencies. More information about the bill is available [here](#). The outlook for passage of the bill is unclear at this time, but it appears to have strong support from the Administration and is in line with an earlier announcement by DOT, HUD and EPA to form a federal partnership and joint task force to promote sustainable communities.