



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LANSING

KIRK T. STEUDLE
DIRECTOR

April 6, 2009

Mr. John D. Niemela, Director
County Road Association of Michigan
P.O. Box 12067
Lansing, Michigan 48901-2067

Mr. David Worthams, Asst. Director
State Affairs
Michigan Municipal League
208 North Capital Avenue, 1st Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Mr. Niemela and Mr. Worthams:

LOCAL AGENCY PROGRAMS
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 (Federal Stimulus Proposal)

The Michigan Department of Transportation has been working cooperatively with the Federal Highway Administration to receive and interpret the many requirements of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. There are numerous reporting requirements and additional project requirements that must be included in ARRA funded projects. MDOT will be providing information to the local agencies as soon as possible. Forthcoming communications will describe the funding options available to the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's) and Rural Task Forces (RTF's), the reporting requirements that need to be included in ARRA projects, and the additional requirements associated with Force Account work. MDOT will be scheduling a workshop with the local agencies that are receiving ARRA funds, to discuss the program requirements, the transparency of the program, and expected increases in project oversight. This workshop is expected to be scheduled in mid-to-late May.

MDOT has been actively preparing to assist the local agencies in the delivery of the ARRA projects to letting. In anticipation of the higher volume of projects to process, MDOT has conducted training sessions with our "on demand" consultants to ensure they are up-to-date on project processing procedures. MDOT has also arranged to have the consultants work from our offices, so they are more integral to the Local Agency production units as they assist us in project review and oversight. We intend to have the consultants perform the complete oversight, including conducting the Grade Inspection for the project and performing the final processing. This will reduce the potential of having any comments that are made at the grade inspection contradicted at the final plan processing step. MDOT Quality Assurance staff will still conduct a final plan/package proposal review to ensure all federal requirements are met. The use of consultants will be essential in the timely delivery of the program. In fact, we are in the process of authorizing additional consultant services to ensure we have the capacity to meet the ARRA program needs. MDOT will offer the optional use of consultants to expedite the project processing or the use of MDOT Local Agency Program (LAP) staff, which will likely require a longer scheduling time for grade inspections. If we utilize a consultant, we will continue use through the letting process. This again provides the local agencies consistency on a project level basis.

Mr. John D. Niemela
Mr. David Worthams
Page 2
April 6, 2009

MDOT has been informed that there is a perception our LAP staff has been reassigned to perform work on trunkline projects, instead of processing local agency projects. I can assure you that this is not true. The LAP Section remains fully staffed and, with the use of the "on demand" consultants, we should be well prepared to provide the needed service to the local agencies.

As previously provided, the following link provides access to the most current information available by the Federal Highway Administration. It is an essential reference for guidelines, reporting requirements, and common questions and answers.

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/economicrecovery/>

If you have any questions, or need further information, please contact either me or Mr. Rudolph S. Cadena, Local Agency Programs Engineer. I can be reached at 517-241-3998 and Mr. Cadena can be reached at 517-335-2233.

Sincerely,



Mark Van Port Fleet, P.E., Director
Bureau of Highway Development