



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17101-1900

OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

April 10, 2009

Honorable Mark K. Keller, Member
PA House of Representatives
5 East Wing, Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 17120

Dear Mr. Keller:

This is in response to your letter dated March 20, 2009, regarding the reporting of information on the federal economic recovery funds provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 for highway projects in the Harrisburg Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) area.

Nationwide, all state Departments of Transportation, as well as the Transportation Management Areas (TMAs), of which the Harrisburg MPO is a part of, have received letters from Congressman James L. Oberstar, Chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I Committee), requesting information on the programming of projects with the federal economic recovery funds. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has received this letter and has similar concerns as expressed in your letter, as well as, concerns from other TMAs in the Commonwealth.

Included with Congressman Oberstar's letter is the guidance from the T&I Committee to complete the required tables of information. This guidance, as well as ARRA regulations, states that Governor Edward G. Rendell shall certify and submit to the U.S. Department of Transportation the projects that are being funded with economic recovery funds. The Department has been working with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) to determine what information is expected and how to report this information so that it is consistent nationwide. The Department realized that each TMA may not have the knowledge, manpower, or access to the information necessary to complete the requested information. Therefore, the Department will submit the requested information on behalf of the TMAs in the Commonwealth on all economic recovery funded projects included in their respective planning area.

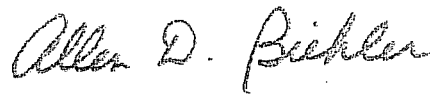
On April 4, 2009, the Department submitted the first accountability report to FHWA which contained an aggregation of statewide data on economic recovery projects, the

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information on the sub-allocated funds for each TMA, and information on each economic recovery funded project in the Commonwealth. The Harrisburg MPO received a copy of the information on the projects in an email from the Department on April 6, 2009, which applied the sub-allocated funds. Future reports on federal economic recovery funds for the TMAs will be completed by the Department with copies of the Department's responses sent to the respective TMAs.

Thank you for your interest in meeting the federal requirements to support the federal economic recovery funds in the Harrisburg area. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Deputy Secretary for Planning James D. Ritzman, P.E., at (717) 787-3154.

Sincerely,



Allen D. Biehler, P.E.
Secretary of Transportation

cc: Honorable Jake Corman, PA Senate
Honorable Mike Folmer, PA Senate
Honorable John R. Gordner, PA Senate
Honorable Jeffrey E. Piccola, PA Senate
Honorable Patricia H. Vance, PA Senate
Honorable Ron Buxton, PA House of Representatives
Honorable Sheryl M. Delozier, PA House of Representatives
Honorable Will Gabig, PA House of Representatives
Honorable Glen R. Grell, PA House of Representatives
Honorable Susan C. Helm, PA House of Representatives
Honorable David S. Hickernell, PA House of Representatives
Honorable Rob W. Kauffman, PA House of Representatives
Honorable Ron Marsico, PA House of Representatives
Honorable John D. Payne, PA House of Representatives
Honorable Scott Perry, PA House of Representatives
Honorable Jeffrey T. Haste, Dauphin County Commissioner
Honorable Rick Rovegno, Cumberland County Commissioner
~~Mr. James W. Szymborski, AICP, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission~~