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Per our chat, please find attached the media plan our office prepared in 2009 to guide our efforts regarding highway projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. I hope it helps you.

If you have any additional questions or need clarification, please let me know.

Best,

Doug

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**  
FHWA Communications Plan

(Updated May 19, 2009)

## **BACKGROUND**

Since November 2008, FHWA leadership – working with President Obama’s transition team – began preparing for the passage and implementation of the largest domestic spending bill in U.S. history. Much of the package included funding for improvements to highways and bridges, making the FHWA and its state counterparts central to the new President’s economic recovery plan.

As the plan developed, FHWA leadership held numerous conference calls, webinars and briefings with its Division Administrators, and other senior officials to ensure everyone understood what would be needed to support it.

## **SUCSESSES**

While much of the work is just beginning, already the FHWA has received kudos from state DOTs, governors and policymakers around the nation who appreciate the foresight and collaborative spirit of the many efforts to ensure ARRA implementation goes quickly, smoothly and transparently.

Since December 2008, the FHWA leadership has created two websites and conducted six webinars, eight teleconferences and eight videoconferences with state and regional officials on ARRA funding and reporting requirements. FHWA Division offices have given dozens of presentations to state and industry counterparts on ARRA funding and reporting requirements. More are being added each week.

FHWA leadership has also played a key role in posting state-by-state, project-by-project ARRA information on its website to ensure maximum compliance with President Obama’s desire for maximum transparency and accountability on the use of these funds.

Additionally, FHWA Public Affairs has fielded dozens of requests for information by reporters, and coordinated with OST Public Affairs appropriate responses to them. FHWA Public Affairs has also taken a lead role in assisting OST Public Affairs with speech preparation for the Secretary and Deputy Secretary, and drafted more than a dozen press releases to announcing the release of ARRA funding which the White House distributed on March 3.

As the lead agency for ARRA’s highway funding, this plan articulates FHWA’s various messages and audiences – and the channels used to connect them. Areas of focus are:

- ARRA Guidance
- Title 23 Requirements
- Reporting Requirements
- Public Information

### ARRA Communication Plan

- Communicate with all affected parties.
- Messages should be specific to the intended audience
- FHWA Risk Management Strategy will focus on the following:
  - Program delivery by the book
  - Program vulnerabilities
  - Visible FHWA Verification

### ARRA Guidance

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Intended Audience</b>	<b>Message</b>	<b>Method/Channel</b>	<b>Timing/Frequency</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Activity Owner</b>
ARRA Presentation	FHWA Division, States Transportation Agencies, Local Governments, Grantees	Consistent ARRA info sharing	Personal appearances, Power Point	2/24	Complete	Irene Rico
ARRA Implementing Guidance	FHWA Division, States Transportation Agencies, Local Governments, Grantees		Hard copy, website	2/26	Complete	Infrastructure
ARRA and Safety	FHWA Safety Specialists, LTAP, APWA		Webinar	3/4/09		Safety
ARRA and Highway Safety	NACA, ATTSA		Webinar, also available at: <a href="http://fhwa.na3.acrobat.com/p27746479/">http://fhwa.na3.acrobat.com/p27746479/</a>	2/25/09		Safety
Briefing	AASHTO Reporting		Teleconference	3/3 or 3/4		

	Groups					
Briefing	Contractors Assn of WV		In-person presentation to approx. 800 attendees	2/27		Tom Smith
Meeting	NACO, NLC, NACE	Discuss ARRA implementation including suballocation	In person meeting	2/26		Environment and Infrastructure (Harlan Miller and Dwight Horne)

**Title 23 Requirements**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Intended Audience</b>	<b>Message</b>	<b>Method/Channel</b>	<b>Timing/Frequency</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Activity Owner</b>
Advance Questions	Local Governments, Grantees			Regularly-scheduled team meetings (2/mo); And as needed		Resource Center (C&PM TST)
Initial Seminar	Local Governments, Grantees	Refresher on Title 23 Requirements	Live Webinar Delivery (recorded) to be made available as asynchronous delivery thereafter	March 9-12 As needed (weblink available as asynch)		Resource Center (C&PM TST)
Follow Q&A Sessions	Local Governments, Grantees		Webinar	Weekly		Environment and Infrastructure

## Reporting Requirements

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Intended Audience</b>	<b>Message</b>	<b>Method/Channel</b>	<b>Timing/Frequency</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Activity Owner</b>
Reporting Requirements	Divisions	Discuss reporting requirements	Videoconference	February 27	Complete	David Winter
Recovery Act and Reporting Requirements	AASHTO Washington Briefing	Overview of Economic Recovery and impact on States	Conference/ Presentation	February 24-25, presentation on the 25 <sup>th</sup> .	Complete	Jeff Paniati
Reporting Requirements	State DOT's and FHWA Division Offices	Discuss reporting requirements	Webinar	March 5, 17, 19 April 2, 23, 28	Complete	David Winter
Reporting Requirements	T&I Staff	Discuss reporting requirements	Briefing	March 9	Complete	David Winter, Karen White, Tim Arnade
Reporting Requirements	Locals	Discuss reporting requirements	Webinar	March 24	Complete	David Winter
Reporting Requirements	State DOT's and FHWA Division Offices	How to use RADS for reporting	Webinar/Live demo	May 6, 7	Complete	David Winter
Reporting Requirements	OST and other OA's	How to use RADS for reporting	Webinar/Live demo	May 8, 14	Complete	David Winter
Reporting Requirements	ARTBA	Overview of Recovery Act Reporting Requirements	Conference/ Presentation	May 19	Pending	David Winter

**Public Outreach**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Intended Audience</b>	<b>Message</b>	<b>Method/Channel</b>	<b>Timing/Frequency</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Activity Owner</b>
	State DOTs, Governors, Congress, White House	FHWA and USDOT are working closely with their state counterparts	Print and Broadcast Media	Daily/Weekly	Ongoing	Public Affairs
	General Public, Congress, White House	FHWA is distributing ARRA funds quickly so Americans can get to work.	Print and Broadcast Media	Daily/Weekly	Ongoing	Public Affairs
	General Public, Congress, White House	Highway improvements are key to the nation's economic recovery.	Print and Broadcast Media	As needed	Ongoing	Public Affairs



## **Presentations, Briefings or Workshops**

### **Week of March 2.**

#### *SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA*

**On Mar. 3-4**, from 1:30-3 p.m., FHWA California Division delivered an “ARRA: Locally Administered Projects” webinar.

#### *WASHINGTON, DC*

**On Mar. 4**, FHWA’s Office of Safety hosted webinar on the ARRA for the LTAP Centers and the FHWA Divisions’ Safety Specialists. The presentation will be followed by a discussion on how the funds can be used for safety projects and other system improvements. There are 500 webinar sites available; once the LTAP Centers and the FHWA Divisions are registered, the program will be made available to NHTSA and the American Public Works Association members

#### *SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS*

**Mar. 3-30**. FHWA Illinois Division participated in seven separate IDOT District implementation meetings of construction staff. FHWA’s Transportation Engineers from the Illinois Division will make ARRA presentations, emphasizing importance of construction inspection and describing reporting requirements.

### **Week of March 9.**

#### *SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS*

**On Mar. 10**, Illinois Division Administrator spoke to the Illinois Asphalt Pavement Association to offer the Federal perspective on fraud prevention. This is a spin-off from the national fraud conference held in Chicago last year. DA Stoner addressed the importance of fraud prevention especially in light of ARRA and next program authorization. As part of his remarks, DA Stoner updated the audience on recent ARRA developments.

#### *INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA*

**On Mar. 10-11**. FHWA Indiana Division Administrator provided updates on the ARRA to the Local Public Agencies. FHWA’s Division Finance Manager also provided ARRA funding updates at the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Purdue Road School, an event that annually well over 1,000 Indiana local and state officials, consultants, and suppliers each year. In all 11, FHWA’s Indiana Division staff participated in presentations during 15 different sessions, covering a wide range of transportation topics during the conference.

*BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA*

**On Mar. 11**, FHWA Division staff participated in ARRA funding discussions during Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) Strategy Committee meeting held at the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham.

*PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND*

**On Mar. 12**, FHWA's Rhode Island Division Administrator gave an ARRA briefing to the Statewide Planning Council.

**Week of March 16.**

*SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS*

**Mar. 3-30.** FHWA Illinois Division participated in seven separate IDOT District implementation meetings of construction staff. FHWA's Transportation Engineers from the Illinois Division will make ARRA presentations, emphasizing importance of construction inspection and describing reporting requirements.

*AUSTIN, TEXAS*

**On Mar. 16**, FHWA's Texas division presents ARRA information and technical assistance to newly created TxDOT team which has been tasked with providing a timely, coordinated response to the requirements of ARRA.

*ANCHORAGE, ALASKA*

**On Mar. 16**, FHWA's Division Staff met with representatives of the AKDOT Civil Rights Division to discuss ARRA and its impacts to supportive services and DBE goal setting.

*ANCHORAGE, ALASKA*

**On Mar. 17**, FHWA's Division staff met with representatives from the Matanuska Susitna Borough on ARRA funding of surface transportation projects.

*MISSOULA, MONTANA*

**On Mar. 17**, FHWA's Montana DA Kevin McLaury gave ARRA presentation to Missoula MPO.

*OMAHA, NEBRASKA*

**On Mar. 17**, FHWA's Nebraska division gave ARRA presentation at Nebraska AGC Annual Meeting.

*WASHINGTON, DC*

**On Mar. 17**, FHWA's Office of Planning, Environment and Realty gave ARRA presentation to National League of Cities.

*ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA*

**On Mar. 17**, FHWA's Office of Planning, Environment and Realty gave ARRA presentation to Professional Trailbuilder's Association Conference.

*SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS*

**On Mar. 17**, FHWA Illinois Division Administrator addressed the Illinois Chapter of the American Concrete Pavement Association in Springfield, Ill. He presented the same basic remarks he gave the previous week to the Asphalt Association on fraud prevention in light of ARRA and next program authorization.

*MOBILE, ALABAMA*

**On Mar. 18**, FHWA's Alabama Division provided information on ARRA at the Mobile MPO meeting.

*OMAHA, NEBRASKA*

**On Mar. 19**, FHWA's Nebraska Division gave ARRA presentation at League of Municipalities Regional Meetings.

*ORLANDO, FLORIDA*

**On Mar. 19**, FHWA's Florida Division gave ARRA presentation to Florida's "Women in Engineering."

*ANCHORAGE, ALASKA*

**On Mar. 19**, FHWA's Division staff met with representatives and lobbyists from the Bristol Bay Borough on ARRA funding of port projects.

**Week of March 23.**

*OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA*

**On Mar. 23**, FHWA Oklahoma Division Administrator gave presentation of ARRA at the Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Concrete Pavement Association.

*WASHINGTON, DC*

**On March 23**, FHWA HQ staff provided a briefing to staff from Customs and Border Protection staff, General Services Administration, Army Corps of Engineers, and their contractors, on the Uniform Act requirements. The meeting was to provide technical assistance on acquisition and relocation requirements applicable to proposed ARRA funded Northern Border Station upgrade projects. The discussion addressed various property rights issues and permit requirements.

*TULSA, OKLAHOMA*

**On Mar. 24**, FHWA's Oklahoma DA Gary Corino gave ARRA presentation to Oklahoma's American Concrete Pavement Association annual meeting.

*NEW JERSEY*

**On Mar. 24**, FHWA's New Jersey Division Administrator gave overview of ARRA to NJ Women's Transportation Study meeting.

*BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA*

**On Mar. 24-25**, FHWA's North Dakota DA Wendall Meyer gave ARRA presentation and spoke on other funding issues at the North Dakota Asphalt Conference.

*MARYLAND*

**On Mar. 24-30** Maryland DOT and Maryland State Highway Administration conducted seven Recovery Act outreach sessions for local governments. The FHWA Maryland Office staff of the DelMar Division attended most outreach sessions and answered questions from the local agencies. Outreach sessions were conducted in each of Maryland's seven engineering districts and were attended by counties and municipalities staff within these engineering districts. Maryland DOT has established a separate section for "Local Project Information" on their Recovery Act website at [http://www.mdot.state.md.us/Planning/Economic\\_Recovery/Index](http://www.mdot.state.md.us/Planning/Economic_Recovery/Index).

*FORT WORTH, TEXAS*

**On Mar. 27**, FHWA's Texas Division presented overview of ARRA to the Chapter 36 (TX Chapter) of the International Right of Way Association during its Spring Business Meeting. The audience consisted of TxDOT Right of Way employees, consultants, Local Public Agency Right of Way employees and others.

*DENVER, COLORADO*

**On Mar. 27**, FHWA's Colorado Division gave ARRA presentation and lead discussion with Colorado DOT, engineering staff, DBE contractors and how to meet DBE and OJT goals within ARRA program.

*COLUMBUS, OHIO*

**On Mar. 27**, Division staff presented at the Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) Transportation Committee meeting.

*ELK GROVE, CALIFORNIA*

**On Mar. 27**, FHWA's California Division gave an ARRA presentation to Caltrans Resident Engineers (RE) Academy, and will focus on reporting requirements.

*AUGUSTA, MAINE*

**On Mar. 27-28**, FHWA's Maine Division made ARRA presentation to Maine Tradeswomen's Conference. The conference was open to all contractors, including primes and DBEs, to explore interests in contracting with the Maine Department of Transportation.

### **Week of March 30**

#### *WASHINGTON, DC*

**On Mar. 31**, FHWA's Office of Federal Lands Highway will host ARRA reporting requirements presentation – specific to federal lands provisions – with representatives from National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense.

#### *OREGON*

**On Mar. 31**, the Division Office participated with ODOT in a day-long orientation at the Oregon State University campus to clarify the State's policy on assisting local governments in delivering ARRA funded projects. Approximately 200 representatives from cities, counties, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, consultants and contractors attended in person, while over 60 streaming video sites were utilized for live coverage of the conference at remote sites. FHWA is including activities in the Division's Recovery Act review for additional oversight to ensure project development and implementation is performed in compliance with all federal requirements.

#### *TENNESSEE*

**From Apr. 1 to Apr. 15**, Tennessee Division Area Engineers attended 10 pre-construction meetings for ARRA projects via teleconference and in person to discuss reporting requirements and federal contract provisions. The Division's goal is to attend all pre-construction meetings for Recovery Act projects.

#### *CASPER, WYOMING*

**On Apr. 1**, FHWA's Wyoming Division Administrator will conduct ARRA presentation at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Transportation and Safety Congress. Attendees will include WYDOT, City and County engineers, road superintendents, and staff members.

#### *NEW JERSEY*

**On Apr. 2**, FHWA's New Jersey Division Administrator Merida to give overview of ARRA funds distribution at NJ Alliance for Action Conference. The program will focus on the distribution of the federal economic stimulus money and its impact in creating jobs and improving the economy. The “working title” for the conference is “Economic Stimulus – How to Get In On The Action.” It will include State and local government officials, contractors and consultants. Alliance sponsored functions generally draw well over 100 people. The Alliance members are focused on infrastructure and economic development in New Jersey. **MEDIA WILL ATTEND.**

#### *WASHINGTON, D.C.*

**On Apr. 2**, FHWA's Office of Planning, Environment and Realty will host ARRA webinar.

*LOVELAND, COLORADO*

**On April 3,** FHWA's Colorado Division to give ARRA presentation and lead discussion with Colorado DOT, engineering staff, DBE contractors and how to meet DBE and OJT goals within ARRA program.

*WASHINGTON, DC*

**On Apr. 3,** FHWA's Office of Information and Management Services is working with FHWA program officials to prepare documents for permanent ARRA data collection approvals.

*NEW JERSEY*

**On Apr. 5,** a Ground Breaking Ceremony was held for the Route 46 and Main Street Project in the Borough of Lodi, Bergen County. New Jersey Governor Corzine was in attendance. The project was authorized on March 13 for \$40,941,004 of ARRA Funds.

**Week of Apr. 6:**

*MONTANA*

**On April 6,** the Montana DOT presented to the Montana Division Administrator and other FHWA staff the process they used to ensure economically distressed areas (EDAs) were a major factor in the selection of projects using ARRA funding. The power point presentation detailed how the Department used the most current information at the time (Dec 2008) to identify the areas that were distressed and the logic used in selecting the list of current projects. At this time, 53% of the ARRA funding is identified in EDAs.

*NEVADA*

**On Apr. 6,** FHWA's Nevada Division gave a presentation on the status of ARRA projects in Nevada, ARRA reporting requirements, required contract provisions and an overview of the Division's ARRA Risk Management Plan to the Nevada Statewide Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (STTAC).

*AUSTIN, TEXAS*

**On Apr. 7,** FHWA Texas ADA will make a presentation on ARRA and reporting requirements to the Associated General Contractors of Texas.

#### *NEW YORK*

**On Apr. 7**, FHWA's New York Division Financial Management staff met with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Internal Audit and the New York State Comptroller's Office (OCS) to discuss various aspects of the reviews and audits of ARRA projects. OSC will be conducting oversight on State contracts in all sectors of the State's Recovery Act program. OCS was complimentary of the Federal Highway Administration's outreach with regards to the Recovery Act, as well as NYSDOT's skills and abilities for delivering Federal-aid projects. The three agencies agreed to share risk management plans, meet on a regular basis, and conduct coordinated reviews whenever possible.

#### *RENO, NEVADA*

**On April 7-8**, FHWA Nevada Division Administrator to give ARRA overview, along with innovative finance and Hot Mix Asphalt to Nevada Transportation Conference: The event will host 300 contractors, consultants and public works employees expected to attend. The two-day event previously focused on street and highway issues, but has been expanded to include multi-modal issues.

#### *WASHINGTON, DC*

**On April 8**, FHWA's Office of Planning, Environment and Realty to give ARRA presentation to at All-Federal Agency Uniform Act Meeting

#### *CHICAGO, ILLINOIS*

**On Apr. 8**, The Chicago Federal Executive Board hosted an Interagency Congressional Briefing on ARRA. This briefing by 21 Federal agencies to staff from 18 congressional offices (Senate and House; IL, IN, and WI) provided information on the roles the local Federal agencies play in implementing and progress being made in the Recovery Act. The FHWA was represented by Illinois Division Administrator, Norman Stoner, and Assistant Division Administrator, Glenn Fulkerson.

#### *SOUTH DAKOTA*

**On Apr. 9**, Division leadership met with staff from the South Dakota Department of Legislative Audit to discuss the Recovery Act. Legislative Audit performs the state's single audit in accordance with OMB Circular A-133. They are currently evaluating what Recovery Act Programs they intend to focus on with the available resources they have. The Division provided a copy of our ARRA Risk Management Plan, a list of the Recovery Act projects, and the Recovery Act Guidance, discussed various risks within the Federal-aid program in South Dakota, and encouraged them to include Recovery Act projects in their audits.



### *NORTH DAKOTA*

**On Apr. 9**, FHWA's Division Administrator and other members of Division Office Staff met with North Dakota DOT management to discuss joint stewardship of the Federal-aid highway program during the Recovery Act implementation. Both agencies brought written stewardship approaches to the meeting and proposed techniques were discussed. It was agreed to further review the written documents and share comments in one week. Following resolution of those comments, a memorandum will be prepared documenting interim modifications to the NDDOT-FHWA Stewardship Agreement.

### *GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO*

**On Apr. 10**, FHWA's Colorado Division to give ARRA presentation and lead discussion with Colorado DOT, engineering staff, DBE contractors and how to meet DBE and OJT goals within ARRA program.

### *OHIO*

**On Apr. 10**, Division leadership met with Ohio DOT Director Jolene Molitoris and key staff to discuss potential issues with identified ARRA projects. Much of the discussion focused on those projects associated with the 120-day timeframe. The Division continues to work closely with ODOT to advance the projects to authorization as quickly as possible.

### *WEST VIRGINIA*

**On Apr. 10**, the Division Administrator spoke to the West Virginia Division of Highways Preconstruction Engineering Seminar in Morgantown, focusing his remarks on ARRA implementation and the future reauthorization. Additionally, the West Virginia Division of Highways (DOH) awarded an additional six ARRA projects that were let to bid on April 2. Construction on the projects will commence immediately. The 50% obligation threshold should be obtained within the month of April. West Virginia DOH has expressed an interest in inviting Secretary LaHood to participate in ground-breaking activities for one of West Virginia's three significant ARRA Corridor Expansion Projects that will commence later in the year.

### **Week of April 13**

#### *WASHINGTON, DC*

**On Apr. 13**, President Obama will visit FHWA HQ to announce 2000<sup>th</sup> ARRA project.

### *MICHIGAN*

**On Apr. 13**, the Michigan Division and MDOT leadership will be meeting with representatives of the Michigan Municipal League (MML) and County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM) to discuss ARRA and the oversight program as it relates to local agency projects.

### *CONNECTICUT*

**On Apr. 14**, Special Agent in Charge of the Region One Office of Inspector General (OIG) and Special Agent of the Connecticut Sub-office made a presentation on the role of the OIG to FHWA Division staff. The presentation focused on the OIG's investigative priorities and how FHWA has and can continue to assist in OIG efforts. The OIG Special Agent in Charge also highlighted the past activities the Connecticut Division had assisted with and thanked the Division. In addition to the presentation, the agents and the FHWA staff extensively discussed the Recovery Act projects and the activities FHWA plans to undertake

### *NEVADA*

**On Apr. 15**, the Nevada Division and Nevada DOT will hold the weekly meeting with the MPOs and LPAs to provide guidance on ARRA project eligibility, reporting documentation and ARRA projects' status.

### *SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA*

**On Apr. 16**, FHWA's California Division will give an ARRA presentation to about 50 participants at the California Chapter of ATSSA. Information given will center on ARRA funding at the local level, project eligibility including safety projects/elements and mitigation of traffic impacts from the increase in work zones.

### *CHEYENNE, WYOMING*

**On Apr. 16**, FHWA's Wyoming Division will conduct an ARRA presentation for the Wyoming Association of Municipalities' spring meeting. Attendees will include elected local and state officials from around the state. Also, the Wyoming Division concurred in the award of the first 15 ARRA projects.

### *JACKSON, TENNESSEE*

**On April 16**, the TN Division participated in a roundtable discussion with TDOT Region Four (Jackson, TN) staff to discuss the ARRA reporting requirements and Federal contract provisions. The discussion was attended by the TDOT Regional Director, Regional Construction Director, construction project supervisors, and project inspectors.

*TRENTON, TENNESSEE*

**On Apr. 16**, Tennessee Division Office representatives joined Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen, Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner Gerald Nicely, Congressman John Tanner, key lawmakers, and local officials for a groundbreaking ceremony for one of the first ARRA funded transportation projects located in the state. The project consists of the replacement of three bridges along McMurray Road near the Town of Trenton, a community in Gibson County.

*TIVERTON, RHODE ISLAND*

**On Apr. 17**, USDOT Secretary LaHood will visit Tiverton, Rhode Island, to see ARRA project there, a 2.3 mile-long resurfacing of Main Street with improvements to curbs, sidewalks, guardrail and drainage. Estimated cost: \$2.47 million FHWA Division Administrator will be on hand, and FHWA is providing support to OST for the event.

*PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE*

**On Apr. 18**, USDOT Secretary LaHood will visit Portsmouth, N.H., area to see ARRA project there, a structural AC overlay of four-lane divided highway (NH 101) near Epping-Exeter. Estimated cost: \$9.5 million FHWA Division Administrator will be on hand, and FHWA is providing support to OST for the event.

**Week of April 20:**

*WASHINGTON, DC*

**On Apr. 19-23**, the Office of Real Estate Services (HEPR) represented FHWA Headquarters at the annual AASHTO/FHWA Right-of-Way & Utilities Subcommittee Conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Eighteen FHWA division realty officers attended and participated in a FHWA kick-off meeting on Sunday afternoon. Throughout the week, HEPR and division realty professionals participated in panels on right of way and utility sessions focusing on a variety of program areas including but not limited ARRA.

*WEST VIRGINIA*

**On Apr. 20**, West Virginia Division Administrator, Tom Smith, will join with the West Virginia Secretary of Transportation, Paul Mattox, in a workshop organized by Congressman Nick Rahall to improve awareness and understanding of access to funding available through ARRA.

*WASHINGTON, DC*

**On Apr. 20**, FHWA's Environmental Coordinator met with representatives of the Mobile, Ala., MPO to discuss proposed Recovery Act projects and the environmental clearances required. A total of 15 projects, totaling \$11 million, have been listed by the various sponsors. The discussion included coordination and documentation requirements, streamlining, and timelines. Based on the meeting and subsequent coordination, 7 of the 15 projects have been cleared with programmatic categorical exclusions (CE). All but one are anticipated to be programmatic CEs following routine coordination. One project will require an individual CE, but the CE will be a checklist document developed by the Alabama DOT and the Alabama Division. The same coordination meeting will be offered to the other MPOs in Alabama.

*TENNESSEE*

**On Apr. 20**, TDOT unveiled one of the new ARRA signs during a sign unveiling on State Route 76 (US79) in Milan, TN (Gibson County). This is the site of a proposed Recovery Act project to widen SR-76 from Milan to the Carroll County line. United States Congressman John Tanner and State Senator Lowe Finney were present, along with TDOT's Region 4 Director Chuck Rychen.

*WASHINGTON, DC*

**During the week of April 20-24**, FHWA's Office of Infrastructure conducted a pilot presentation of NHI course 134067 – *Inspection of Bridge Rehabilitation Projects* in Oklahoma City, OK. Workforce development for construction inspectors is of great importance for transportation agencies, and this training is particularly timely considering the volume of work system preservation and rehabilitation work being started through the Recovery Act. The course is designed for State and local construction inspectors who are unfamiliar with the intricacies and details of bridge repair and rehabilitation. Technical information covered in the course includes special considerations in construction loading and demolition, concrete and steel materials considerations, deck repair, concrete and steel superstructures, and substructures. Internal and external communications are emphasized throughout to highlight the construction inspectors' role in influencing the finished quality and long-term performance of the rehabilitation work. A contract will be issued for course delivery starting in the fall of 2009.

*TEXAS*

**On Apr. 21**, one day prior to opening bids for their first Recovery Act Projects, the TxDOT Assistant Executive Director for Engineering Operations held a workshop on ARRA project reporting requirements and fraud awareness and prevention. The workshop was scheduled as part of the Associated General Contractor's membership luncheon held in conjunction with TxDOT April 22, 2009 bid opening. FHWA's Texas Division staff participated in the workshop to respond to questions.

### *NEVADA*

**On Apr. 23**, FHWA's Nevada Division and Nevada DOT participated in a Webinar which provided the status of Recovery Act reports submitted and introduced future web application for submitting data and creating reports. The NDOT has created a web database for the prime contractors to input the required ARRA reporting information. This database is currently on the NDOT website.

### *PENNSYLVANIA*

**On Apr. 23**, FHWA's Pennsylvania Division participated in webinar with PennDOT. Discussed reporting issues and details after webinar.

### *PENNSYLVANIA*

**On Apr. 24**, the annual Spring Pennsylvania Transportation Management Association (TMA) meeting was held. Pennsylvania has 9 official TMAs – six in the Philadelphia area, three in Pittsburgh, and one TMA-like multi-county commuter service program in the Harrisburg region. The Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation addressed the group and answered a number of questions. Attendees received updates on Federal and State Agency issues as well as presentations on: Liability and Insurance Requirements, Smart Transportation, Climate Change, and CMAQ Eligibility Requirements. A portion of the day was dedicated to a town hall meeting which included an open discussion on Economic Recovery efforts, ASSHTO Emphasis Areas, Transportation Funding, and the upcoming Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization. Each TMA present also provided an update on their current activities and perceived future challenges. The Pennsylvania Division represented FHWA in a review of Federal/State agency issues along with the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The Division also made a well-received presentation on Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program eligibilities.

### *WISCONSIN*

**On Apr. 24**, FHWA's Wisconsin Division and Wisconsin DOT staff will be meeting with representatives from the Ho-Chunk Nation regarding the US-41 Causeway Expansion across Lake Butte des Morts. The tribe has expressed concerns over impacts the additional fill may have on potential historic sites. The project is scheduled to be let in June and will be utilizing ARRA funding.

**Week of April 27:**

*WASHINGTON, DC*

**On Apr. 27**, US Transportation Secretary LaHood has been invited to attend the announcement by Mayor Fenty of the SE/SW Freeway ARRA project. The project consists of approximately six miles of resurfacing.

*WASHINGTON, DC*

**On Apr. 27**, the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and FHWA will offer a free Web briefing on the current issues surrounding ARRA. This briefing will include the ARRA objectives, how funds are distributed, and requirements for the use of ARRA funds, accountability and transparency issues and next steps. Mr. Joe Toole, Associate Administrator, FHWA Office of Safety will also discuss opportunities to improve the highway safety, the eligibility of safety projects and local roads.

*TENNESSEE*

**On Apr. 27**, an event was held in Carter County for breaking ground on an ARRA bridge replacement project in eastern Tennessee. This project, one of the first ten projects let in Tennessee, involves the replacement of a steel truss bridge on Wilbur Dam/Steel Bridge Roads over the Watauga River. The event was attended by Governor Bredesen, House Speaker Williams, Senator Crowe, Commissioner Nicely, and Carter County officials.

*NEW HAMPSHIRE*

**On Apr. 27**, NHDOT and FHWA co-sponsored a full-day workshop targeted to local agency staff and their partners that currently manage, or soon will be managing a federal-aid transportation improvement project. Emphasis was placed on the requirements for the American Recovery and Re-investment Act funding and included a fraud awareness and prevention presentation by the Office of Inspector General.

*PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE*

**On Apr. 27**, the first two public informational meetings for the Maine-NH Connections Study were held in Kittery, Maine, and Portsmouth, New Hampshire. These meetings introduced the study elements to the public and provided the opportunity to comment and ask questions. The Study is being funded equally by the Maine and New Hampshire Departments of Transportation to identify the long-term multimodal transportation needs of the area, evaluate the transportation alternatives that best address the river crossings between Portsmouth and Kittery, and evaluate the issues affecting the three existing bridges (I-95, Sarah Mildred Long Bridge/US Route 1 Bypass, and the Memorial Bridge/US Route 1) over the Piscataqua River. Both State DOTs agree that pursuing Federal stimulus discretionary grant funding under ARRA could be the solution for funding the aging and historically significant Memorial

and Sarah Mildred Long bridges. NH's Governor John Lynch had discussed this with Secretary LaHood during his recent trip to New Hampshire. The Memorial Bridge is now listed on the 2009 National Trust for Historic Preservation's List of 11 Most Endangered Places. The 85 year old bridge is a memorial to World War I servicemen. New Hampshire and Maine seacoast residents held a Save Our Bridges rally on April 28 to garner support to preserve both bridges.

#### *NORTH DAKOTA*

**On Apr. 28**, FHWA's North Dakota Division and NDDOT representatives attended the Recovery Act Webinar led by David Winter.

#### *VIRGINIA*

**On Apr. 28**, representatives from the Office of the Inspector General visited the Virginia Division Office to discuss ARRA projects and deliver a presentation that focused on OIG fraud investigative priorities and how FHWA can assist OIG efforts. The discussion mainly focused on oversight and OIG's role with respect to ARRA projects and the Virginia Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and other stakeholders in preventing and detecting fraud, waste and abuse in the department's programs. Since local organizations are becoming increasingly involved in the contract and project development process, he suggested that additional emphasis be placed on providing assistance through training to help identify potential fraud. The focus areas that were discussed were; bid rigging and collusion; materials overcharging; product substitution; minority-owned business fraud; quality-control testing fraud; bribery and kickbacks. The division plans to work with the OIG to provide training in the areas of fraud, waste, and abuse to Virginia stakeholders.

#### *WASHINGTON, DC*

**On Apr. 28**, The Office of the Secretary (OST) announced a new Department of Transportation Rotational Assignment Program (DOT RAP) in support of ARRA. The DOT RAP is meant to address OA needs by offering employees developmental experiences that match current and future workforce priorities, such as emergency resource needs caused by abnormal workload, special projects or studies, change in mission or organization, or absences for periods of short duration. The secondary goal is to enhance employee career development. FHWA offices that want to post a multi-modal assignment should work with their servicing Human Resources office to post the assignment. Visit the DOT RAP at <http://onerap.ost.dot.gov/>. An e-mail announcement was sent to all official mailboxes on April 28. The Federal Highway Administration Temporary Developmental Assignment Clearinghouse (on StaffNet) has been the mechanism for providing opportunities for rotational assignments for FHWA employees. The Clearinghouse is used to solicit interested FHWA employees in rotational assignments; many of which are virtual. Each office (AA, DA, etc.) has a person who can load assignments on the Clearinghouse.

*MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA*

**On Apr. 29**, FHWA Division Planning staff will conduct a presentation on the Recovery Act for the Decatur MPO.

**Week of May 4**

*REDMOND, WASHINGTON*

**On May 1**, the City of Redmond will hold a groundbreaking for the NE 36th Street Bridge over SR 520. This \$34 million bridge will improve mobility in the area and relieve congestion at the nearby NE 40th Street and 148th Avenue interchanges. This project, which received some notoriety recently because it also helps connect two Microsoft employment areas, is receiving \$11 million in ARRA funding, as well as \$16-17 million from Microsoft.

*WISCONSIN*

**On May 5**, the Wisconsin Division and the Wisconsin DOT conducted a Local Program training session. The session included an overview of ARRA and related requirements, an overview of key federal-aid project requirements, a presentation on NEPA compliance, and an outline of requirements relating to local force account. Since the training was conducted for those responsible for managing and overseeing the local program, significant emphasis was placed on oversight roles, responsibilities, and expectations. Over 50 WisDOT local program staff, project management staff, and management consultant staff attended the training.

*TENNESSEE DIVISION*

**On May 6**, Two of Tennessee's ARRA projects were noted in the AASHTO internet publication "Delivering on the Promise" (<http://downloads.transportation.org/DeliveringOnThePromise.pdf>). The projects consist of the replacement of three bridges along McMurray Road near the Town of Trenton, a community in Gibson County located in west Tennessee, along with the replacement of a steel truss bridge on Wilbur Dam/Steel Bridge Roads over the Watauga River in Carter County, located in upper east Tennessee.

*DALLAS, TEXAS*

**On May 5-6**, FHWA's Texas Division will be making a presentation to the Dallas chapter of the Society of American Military Engineers at the "Business Partnering and Opportunities" conference. The purpose of the meeting is to provide a forum for companies of differing sizes to partner on potential future business opportunities. The Texas Division will inform participants, who may not know about the highway project process, about the impact of ARRA on Texas and the Texas process for project development.



#### *NEVADA*

**On May 7**, FHWA's Nevada Division and Nevada DOT hosted training sessions with the MPOs and LPAs in Las Vegas to provide guidance for Recovery Act project right-of-way, utility, design and construction requirements and to discuss Recovery Act reporting requirements.

#### *NEW JERSEY*

**On May 7**, Vice President Biden visited Lodi, NJ to announce that more than \$47 million in ARRA funds will jump-start a long-overdue bridge upgrade on US 46. The project is funded with \$47.6 million from ARRA, will raise two bridges on the highway in Lodi and improve drainage on the part of the borough's flood-prone Main Street that runs beneath the bridges. The contracts for the project would be the NJDOT's first awarded under the ARRA program.

#### *MICHIGAN*

**On May 7 and 8**, a group of Federal agencies (DOE, DOL, DOC, EDA, SBA, DOL, HUD, EPA, and DOT), headed by Dr. Edward Montgomery from the Department of Labor, toured and conducted listening sessions in Grand Rapids, Flint, Warren, and Detroit to observe first hand how the economic downturn is affecting Michigan. The Division office, at the Secretary's request, represented U.S. DOT at the meetings. Dr. Montgomery was appointed by President Obama to work with hard-hit states such as Michigan where the economy has been severely impacted (unemployment exceeds 25 percent in some Michigan communities). The Governor and Michigan Congressional delegation were active participants and there was extensive press coverage.

The Federal agencies observed the idle capacity of manufacturing facilities and heard testimony from State and local officials as well as the private sector on current problems and suggestions on how the Federal government could help with solutions. Recurring themes included: save the auto industry and its workforce; support the auto supplier community overcome redlining with more accessible credit; help factories retool for alternative products; redevelop brown-fields; and the need for education, health care, and sustained pensions for retired workers. The Federal team will review the information received and develop a response to help government and private sector interests.

#### *COLORADO DIVISION*

**As of May 8**, three of Colorado DOT's six regional offices have hosted workshops for local agencies with ARRA projects to assure understanding of all aspects of the new program and federal-aid requirements. The other regions will host such workshops in the future.

### *IOWA DIVISION*

**On May 8**, the Iowa Division initiated a review of the Iowa DOT projects funded with ARRA Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds. The purpose of this review is to verify the Iowa DOT Office of Systems Planning's eligibility determination of Transportation Enhancement projects to ensure only eligible projects are advanced for ARRA participation. The Iowa Division randomly selected six of twenty-two ARRA funded TE projects for this review.

### **Week of May 11:**

#### *PENNSYLVANIA*

**On May 11**, the FHWA Pennsylvania Division office arranged a tour of the Statewide Traffic Management Center (TMC) in Woodbridge New Jersey for a group representing various Pennsylvania transportation agencies. The New Jersey Center houses the New Jersey State Police, New Jersey Turnpike Authority, and New Jersey Department of Transportation. Pennsylvania agencies represented on the tour included: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Pennsylvania State Police, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, the City of Philadelphia, and Philadelphia Metropolitan Planning Organization. The technology transfer event provided insights to the Pennsylvania contingent on the benefits and issues with agency co-location, multi-agency incident management and coordination, and state of the art TMC technology applications. The tour also provided lessons learned for Pennsylvania in planning for a statewide traffic management center.

#### *ALABAMA*

**On May 12**, FHWA's Division staff will conduct a Recovery Act training session for the Auburn MPO. The Division Planning & ROW Manager will conduct a general presentation on the ARRA and the Division Environmental Coordinator will provide technical assistance to project sponsors in determining the level of environmental documentation required for individual projects.

#### *INDIANA*

**On May 12**, a representative from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) attended the ARRA Coordination meeting regularly held on every Tuesday between the Division and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). He discussed the OIG responsibilities with regard to the Recovery Act projects and delivered a presentation that focused on fraud investigative priorities and how FHWA and INDOT can assist OIG efforts. The discussion focused on preventing and detecting fraud, waste and abuse, bid rigging and collusion, materials overcharging, product substitution, minority-owned business fraud, quality-control testing fraud, and bribery and kickbacks.

### *GEORGIA*

**On May 14**, the USDOT Office of Inspector General (OIG) provided *Fraud Awareness Training* for the Georgia Division to heighten awareness about various types of fraud and inform staff about OIG's new approach to conducting audits and investigations of DOT projects and activities funded by ARRA. This approach includes increased audits and investigative work, expanded outreach efforts, and new funding and program flexibilities. These actions aim to help position USDOT to meet the increased workload under ARRA and protect the Federal investment over the long term.

### *NEW JERSEY*

**On May 14**, the New Jersey Division Administrator to speak at the TRANSACTION conference, the largest transportation conference held annually in New Jersey. Typical attendance is 500+ people. The presentation will be part of a breakout panel discussion on the Recovery Act. Included on the panel will be representatives of the three New Jersey metropolitan planning organizations, New Jersey DOT, and New Jersey Transit. The audience includes transportation professionals, industry, and elected officials from across New Jersey.

### *MASSACHUSETTS*

**As of May 15**, FHWA's Division Administrator and the Director of Program Development met with the City of Boston's Transportation Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner to discuss Recovery funded projects, Congressional earmarks and opportunities for local administration of federally funded projects. In Massachusetts, local Federal Aid projects are administered by the Massachusetts Highway Department. The City of Boston has met with the GAO as part of the initial ARRA review for MA.

### *WASHINGTON, DC*

**On May 15**, the Office of Policy and Governmental Affairs submitted a response to OMB's comments on the first draft of the FHWA Recovery Act Performance Plan. The response was coordinated with the CFO and the Director of Field Services.

### **Week of May 18**

#### *COLORADO DIVISION*

**On May 18 or 19**, the Colorado DOT held ground-breaking ceremony for the first Recovery Act project to initiate construction. Although it is a small project (\$1M) providing for repaving of a Denver route, it will be the first construction activity.

*WASHINGTON, DC*

**As of May 18**, training for the on-line reporting system for ARRA information, called the Recovery Act Data System (RADS), is being provided to the field by the Office of Policy and Governmental Affairs and will be provided to the interested parties in Policy in the near future.

*INDIANA*

**On May 20**, FHWA's Division Administrator made a presentation to the Indiana Association of Environmental Professionals (INAEP) at their monthly General Membership Meeting. The topics covered will include Economic Recovery and budget impacts on agency programs, operations and opportunities as related to transportation and transportation-related programs in Indiana.

**Week of June 1:**

*WASHINGTON, DC*

**On June 2**, at the ITS America annual meeting being held at National Harbor, FHWA Associate Administrator Jeff Lindley will give presentation titled, "Leveraging Transportation Operations to Achieve Broader Objectives." The presentation will focus on how ARRA formula funds are being used for transportation operations / ITS investments, operational considerations during implementation of ARRA projects, and opportunities for operations / ITS investments under the ARRA surface transportation discretionary program.

*BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA*

**On June 4**, FHWA's Division Administrator will present information on ARRA for the annual meeting of the Alabama Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). The Division Planning & ROW Manager will also conduct a presentation on Federal-aid funding and the status of the Highway Trust Fund.

*WASHINGTON, DC*

**On June 5**, at a meeting of the National Transportation Operations Coalition (national associations with an interest in transportation operations), FHWA Associate Administrator Jeff Lindley will give presentation on how ARRA formula funds are being used for transportation operations / ITS investments, operational considerations during implementation of ARRA projects, and opportunities for operations / ITS investments under the ARRA surface transportation discretionary program

### **Week of June 8**

#### *FORT WORTH, TEXAS*

**On June 11**, FHWA's Texas Division and OIG-Ft. Worth will be making a presentation on ARRA oversight, review and accountability at the annual TxDOT Audit Conference. Auditors from all of the 25 TxDOT District Offices as well as their HQ staff will be participating.

#### *KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN*

**On June 12**, there will be a groundbreaking of the 2000<sup>th</sup> authorized project funded by ARRA, the I-94/South Westnedge Interchange Groundbreaking Ceremony, located on I-94 near Kalamazoo within the City of Portage. The construction cost is currently estimated at \$51.9 million dollars and is expected to create over 900 jobs. The project will be let to contract in May with construction scheduled to begin in June 2009 and be completed in 2011. The project will reconstruct and widen 1.9 miles of I-94 from four to six lanes and includes a single point interchange at South Westnedge Avenue. Vice President Biden and Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood are scheduled to appear at the ground breaking. It is expected that the Michigan DOT in conjunction with Governor Granholm's office will be coordinating this event.

### **Week of June 15**

#### *BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA*

**On June 16**, The Office of Inspector General is scheduled to provide Recovery Act fraud awareness briefing to the Division Office and the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) staff in Bismarck. The briefing will be held at the NDDOT central office, and additional participation is planned from field offices through videoconference.

#### *SOUTH DAKOTA*

**On June 17**, the Office of Inspector General is scheduled to provide an ARRA fraud awareness briefing to Division Office and South Dakota DOT staff in Pierre. The briefing will be held at the SDDOT to allow participation from field offices through videoconference. South Dakota Legislative Audit staff will be invited to participate, as well.

**Week of June 29**

*WASHINGTON, DC*

**On June 29**, senior-level event to observe 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of signing of Eisenhower's Interstate Highway Act and the 120-day deadline of obligating ARRA's first 50 percent. Site: TBD but expected to be Zero Milestone, on the north side of the Ellipse, near the White House.