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5,000 “Ready-To-Go” Transportation Projects Could Put Millions to Work

“President-elect Barack Obama is pledging to put millions of Americans to work by building and repairing the nation’s highways and bridges and a new survey of state “ready-to-go” transportation projects is the road map he needs to make it happen,” said John Horsley, Executive Director of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

The District of Columbia and all 50 state Departments of Transportation responded to the survey. More than 5-thousand “ready-to-go” projects worth \$64 billion were identified. These transportation infrastructure projects are considered “ready to go” because they could be under contract within 180-days; supporting an estimated 1.8 million American jobs, if the funding were made available.

“Right now, 41 states are facing budget shortfalls and many of our state departments of transportation have had no choice but to delay critical projects that will fill potholes, enhance safety and extend the lifespan of the nation’s aging bridges,” Horsley said. “This survey shows that state DOTs are ready to quickly put the economic stimulus dollars and people to work.”

In a similar AASHTO survey conducted in January of this year, all 50 states and the District of Columbia responded, identifying approximately 3,000 projects worth \$18 billion that could be under contract within 90 days.

2008 Ready-to-Go Highway Projects (December, 2008 Survey)

State	Number of Projects	Dollar Value (in Millions)
Alabama	16	\$877.0
Alaska	4	\$139.3
Arizona	72	\$1,091.5
Arkansas	130	\$1,120.5
California		\$5,000.0
Colorado	113	\$1,154.0
Connecticut	5	\$764.7
Delaware		\$125.0
DC	3	\$56.0
Florida	92	\$6,968.3
Georgia	319	\$1,932.9
Hawaii	51	\$417.9
Idaho	126	\$805.0
Illinois	245	\$783.3
Indiana	109	\$501.2
Iowa	41	\$221.2
Kansas	107	\$357.0
Kentucky	50	\$400.0
Louisiana	58	\$423.0
Maine	44	\$221.0
Maryland		\$230.0
Massachusetts	37	\$220.0
Michigan	208	\$1,750.0
Minnesota	200	\$950.0
Mississippi	75	\$600.0
Missouri	34	\$510.0
Montana	158	\$350.0
Nebraska	30	\$250.0
Nevada	40	\$250.0
New Hampshire	27	\$230.5
New Jersey	153	\$1,640.0
New Mexico	49	\$1,136.1
New York	40	\$550.0
North Carolina	296	\$5,170.0
North Dakota		\$300.0
Ohio		\$2,160.0
Oklahoma	95	\$778.0
Oregon	105	\$564.0
Pennsylvania	319	\$1,030.0
Puerto Rico	132	\$1,590.6
Rhode Island	40	\$100.0
South Carolina	51	\$850.0
South Dakota	29	\$155.0
Tennessee	120	\$400.0
Texas	853	\$6,018.4
Utah	136	\$10,800.0
Vermont	22	\$94.7
Virginia	40	\$680.4
Washington	60	\$1,339.0
West Virginia	181	\$1,134.4
Wisconsin	60	\$320.0
Wyoming	105	\$400.3
Total	5,280	\$65,910.2

The Federal Highway Administration estimates that approximately 35,000 jobs are supported by every \$1.25 billion invested in transportation projects.

In addition to the highway projects, some states also identified transit, rail, water and aviation “ready-to-go” projects. More comprehensive assessments are available from the following modal organizations.

Airports Council International at: http://www.aci-na.org/news/2008_oct29

American Association of Port Authorities at: <http://www.aapa-ports.org/Press/PRdetail.cfm?itemnumber=11208>

States for Passenger Rail Coalition at: http://www.s4prc.org/inthenews/2008news/stimulus_2.pdf

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) at: http://www.apta.com/media/releases/081029_federal_funding.cfm

The American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) Vice President of Economics and Research, William Buechner, PhD. testified on Capitol Hill about the link between transportation investment and job creation. Find his testimony at: <http://transportation.house.gov/Media/File/Full%20Committee/20081029/Buechner.pdf>

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) is the “Voice of Transportation” representing state departments of transportation in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. AASHTO is a nonprofit, nonpartisan association serving as a catalyst for excellence in transportation.