



**COASTAL REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
JUNE 2009 MPO MEETINGS**

**CORE BOARD and TCC AGENDA ITEM III-D-3
CAC and ACAT AGENDA ITEM II-D-3**

- Agenda Item:** TIP Amendment for Contingency Projects to be funded through the MPO Sub-Allocation of ARRA Funds
- Presenter:** Wykoda Wang, MPO Staff
- Summary:** On February 17, 2009 President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) which directs stimulus funds toward states and local governments to create jobs and to transform the US economy.

Requirements for ARRA-Funded Transportation Projects

For transportation projects that receive ARRA funds, the following federal requirements would apply:

- The project must be included or amended into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- The project must meet all standard federal eligibility requirements.
- The project must meet federal functional classification requirements.
- The project must have environmental clearance in accordance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).
- The project must have right-of-way acquisition and certification in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisitions Policy Act.
- The project must be “ready-to-go” – fund obligation expected in the near future.

In addition, the following project priority criteria shall be considered and documented during project selection:

- Three-year completion priority: expenses completed by February 17, 2012
- Provides work in Economically Distressed Areas

- Expeditious project delivery with a goal of obligating at least 50% of the funds not later than June 17, 2009 (MPO sub-allocation obligation deadline - February 17, 2010).
- Maximize job creation and economic benefit
 - Construction
 - Distribute across state
 - Maximize number of individual contracts

CORE MPO April TIP Amendments for Sub-Allocation of ARRA Funds

The ARRA funds sub-allocated to the Savannah urbanized area for highway improvements are \$7,131,118. These funds must be obligated within one year of apportionment (February 17, 2010). The CORE MPO Board amended the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in April 2009 to program the MPO attributable ARRA funds for the high-priority projects in Chatham County as listed below.

Table 1: April TIP Amendments for MPO Sub-Allocation of ARRA Funds		
PROJECT	FUNIDNG AMOUNT	STATUS
PI# 0007128, Islands Expressway @ Wilmington River Bascule Bridge Replacement - Preliminary Engineering	\$1,000,000	Concept meeting was held in April 2007. Consultant has analyzed the alternatives and Alt. 1 has been selected. Concept report was submitted to GDOT for approval. Consultant is working on revised concept report.
City of Savannah Pedestrian Count Down Signals	\$222,000	City of Savannah submitted supporting documents to GDOT for the traffic projects.
City of Savannah Audible Pedestrian Push Buttons	\$140,000	
City of Savannah LED Signal Replacement	\$30,000	
Mall Blvd @ Hodgson Memorial Signal Upgrade	\$172,000	
Montgomery Cross Road Signal Interconnect	\$80,000	
City of Savannah Traffic Pre-emption	\$1,600,000	

Table 1: April TIP Amendments for MPO Sub-Allocation of ARRA Funds - Continued		
PROJECT	FUNIDNG AMOUNT	STATUS
Anderson Curve Reconstruction	\$350,000	City of Savannah submitted supporting documents to GDOT for the PDP process.
West Gwinnett Street Curve Reconstruction	\$155,000	City of Savannah submitted supporting documents to GDOT for the PDP process.
Study for Bull River and Lazaretto Creek Bicycle and Pedestrian Connections	\$200,000	ARRA funds obligation will start consultant procurement process.
PI# 0009313, SR 21 Corridor Study	\$400,000	
PI# 0009314, SR 204 Corridor Study	\$300,000	
PI# 0002923, Bay Street Operational Improvement and Safety - Right of Way	\$2,482,118	Final EA and FONSI were approved by FHWA in August 2007. Preliminary plans are being developed. Preliminary Field Plan Review which is scheduled within the next 45 days is needed for ROW authorization to occur.

Proposed TIP Amendments for Contingency Projects

Since all of the projects have to meet the federal requirements and go through the project development process, some of those listed in Table 1 might not get approved because of unexpected procedural or project delivery obstacles. Staff is recommending considering the following projects as contingency projects if any of the projects adopted for the April TIP amendments get disqualified.

Table 2: Contingency Projects for MPO Sub-Allocation of ARRA Funds	
PROJECT	FUNIDNG AMOUNT
PI# 0007482, SR 25/US 17 @ SR 307/Bourne Ave - Right of Way	\$53,500
US 80 Toll Feasibility Study	\$300,000
Statewide Railway Plan	\$250,000

TIP Amendment Public Involvement

The TIP amendment process follows the requirements of the CORE MPO's Participation Plan. CORE MPO is conducting a 15-day public review and comment period for the proposed TIP amendments, including the amendment for inclusion of the contingency projects for MPO attributable ARRA funds. Final adoption is expected on June 24, 2009. The advertisement for the public review and comment of the proposed TIP amendments were published in the *Savannah Morning News*, posted on the MPC website and sent to the other local media as well as the CORE MPO committees and others.

Recommendation: For endorsement and adoption of the ARRA MPO Sub-allocation contingency projects listed in Table 2 to ensure that in the case of one or more projects in Table 1 are not approved that the CORE MPO can commit the released funds to the contingency projects.