

# Economic Stimulus and Recovery Program Webinar

**Presented by  
Parsons Brinckerhoff**

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# Welcome

BY GREG KELLY

- Today's speakers

- Mort Downey
- Jeff Morales

- Agenda

- Context
- Legislative Process
- Implementation
- Implications and Consequences
- Q&A Discussion

# Context

## FOCUS ON INFRASTRUCTURE

- Setting the stage

- Unprecedented focus on infrastructure, including transportation, in Presidential campaign
- Strong push from Governors, Mayors
- Specific commitments from candidates/President-elect Obama and Vice-President-elect Biden
- Recognition of positive economic impact of investment

# Context

## FRAMING THE ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH

1. Create and Preserve Jobs Now
2. Fix It First
3. Strengthen Communities
4. Support Commerce
5. Foster Innovation
6. Leverage the *Investment*

***Accountability***

# Context

## OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

- Complicated – Can't make it more so
- Challenging
- Everybody's Watching
- Uncertain
- But Short Game Once Whistle Blows

# Context

## WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM?

✓ A jobs bill	✗ SAFETEA-LU reauthorization
✓ Means of providing funding to programs that can produce jobs quickly	✗ Demonstration of national investment priorities
✓ ~ 1-year's additional funding @ 100% federal funds	✗ Money w/ no strings attached
✓ Accelerated decisions	✗ Business as usual

# Legislative Process

## CURRENT SNAPSHOT\*

- Selected Transportation Infrastructure Elements:

Program	House	Senate
Formula Grants		
Highways and Bridges	\$30.0 Billion	\$27.0 Billion
Transit	\$9.5 Billion	\$8.4 Billion
Amtrak	\$0.8 Billion	\$0.9 Billion
Discretionary Grants		
New Multi-Modal Program	-	\$5.5 Billion
New Starts / Small Starts Transit	\$2.5 Billion	-
Intercity Pax Rail State "Corridors"	\$0.3 Billion	\$2.3 Billion
Airport Improvement Program	\$3.0 Billion	\$1.1 Billion

**\* EVOLVING – PRESSURE FOR BILL PASSAGE BY MID-FEBRUARY**

# Legislative Process

## WHAT'S REMAINING

- Steps

- Senate Passage
- “Go to Conference”
- Enactment

- Infrastructure funding amounts still in play, but not likely to change significantly

- Need greater focus on details, e.g.:

- “FTA obligations”
- New Starts “contracts”
- Metropolitan area sub-allocation
- Maintenance of effort and reporting

# Legislative Process

## WHAT IS USDOT DOING TO GET READY?

- Pressure to deliver
- Opportunity to be central to agenda
- Won't have additional political leadership in place for some time
- FHWA
- FTA
- FRA
- FAA
- Interagency Tiger Team

# Implementation

## KEY STEPS

- Between now and enactment
  - Treat as a separate program
    - Appoint director, reporting to agency head
  - Develop processes and interagency agreements for accelerating implementation and assuring that deadlines are met
  - Identify potential projects to meet needs
    - Resolve timelines and any remaining pre-obligation steps
  - Coordinate w/ MPO, local jurisdictions, and federal agencies
  - Secure needed program management resources
  - FOCUS ON KEY GOALS: JOBS, ECONOMIC IMPACT, DELIVERY

# Implementation

## KEY STEPS

- After enactment

- Program management
- Obligation of funds
- Effective spending
- Construction management
- Data collection
- Accountability
- Maintenance of effort
- Discretionary applications (if programs retained)

# Implications

## CONSEQUENCES

- Unprecedented opportunity
  - Success breeds success
    - Spending money wisely + meeting schedule = demonstrating need
- Downside risks
  - Agency level
    - Unmet infrastructure needs
    - Political risk of forfeiting 100% federal funds
  - Industry level
    - FY10 Appropriations
    - SAFETEA-LU and FAA reauthorizations

# Implications

## WHAT CAN THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM BE?

- It CAN be a down-payment on a sustained investment as well as an opportunity to show how agencies can deliver

# Questions and Answers

## Discussion

For additional resources, please see [www.pbstimulus.com](http://www.pbstimulus.com)