

NEWS RELEASE

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News Contact: Steve Swartz (785) 296-3585

Kansas' share of transportation distribution nearly \$380 million

Kansas will receive an estimated \$350 million under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for highway construction projects that will create or sustain thousands of jobs and make important improvements to the state's transportation system.

In addition, Kansas will receive an estimated \$27 million to be spent on transit projects throughout the state.

"We're reminded every day that the state and nation are falling deeper and deeper into recession. As we get these important projects under way and jobs are created, all of those associated 'multiplier effects' can start moving through the state economy," said Secretary Deb Miller of the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Based on the Federal Highway Administration's method for determining job creation through funding for highway projects, economic stimulus spending in Kansas will generate between 10,000 and 11,000 jobs.

KDOT planners working since last fall have built a pool of \$1.3 billion in state projects that can be ready to let to contract within the time frames prescribed in the federal bill. Half of the projects must be under way within 120 days after the money is appropriated to the State.

KDOT recommendations for projects will be based on input gathered during local consultation meetings in 2006 and 2008, and safety, economic and roadway condition factors.

In addition to the projects on the state system, the recovery money will be shared with cities and counties according to the historical share applied to federal transportation funds the state receives.

“Our goal is to share about 20 percent of the money with local governments,” said Secretary Miller. “For the state system, we want to be sure that we are able to construct a handful of substantial projects from the funding.”

The Kansas City and Wichita metropolitan planning organizations will be responsible for identifying projects for which they receive direct allocations. For other local jurisdictions, KDOT will issue a call for projects. After screening projects to ensure they meet federal program requirements, KDOT staff will select projects from the pool of submitted applications.

Priority for local requests will be given to new projects over those already scheduled for construction. Additional considerations will be made for safety, economic impact and transportation need.

Fifty percent of the transit spending must be done in 180 days. The state’s urban transit providers will receive about \$15 million and rural providers will get about \$12 million. The estimated urban distribution is as follows: Wichita, \$6.1 million; Johnson County, \$2.5 million; Topeka, \$2.3 million; Lawrence, \$1.9 million; Unified Government of Wyandotte County, \$1.7 million; and St. Joseph (Kansas side of the area), \$16,000.

“While we have many more transportation needs in Kansas than the recovery package can fund, this legislation will provide a significant boost to our infrastructure and economy,” said Secretary Miller.

“Important, fundamental issues that have pushed the nation’s transportation infrastructure to the breaking point remain to be addressed. But I am grateful we can move forward on many important projects.”

As more details become available about the stimulus spending, please visit the Kansas Transportation Online Community at www.ktoc.net, or the KDOT Web site at www.ksdot.org.

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This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request. For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact the Bureau of Transportation Information, 700 SW Harrison St., 2nd Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice) (TTY).