

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS



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## **Funding “Ready to Go” Transportation Projects Will Boost Small Businesses and American Jobs**

“If Congress wants to support small business, create thousands of jobs here at home and stimulate the economy, it should invest in the more than 3,000 ‘ready to go’ highway projects that could be under contract within the next 30-to-90 days.” said John Horsley, Executive Director of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

Earlier this year more than 40 states and the District of Columbia responded to a survey conducted at the request of Congressional Committees. More than \$18 billion worth of “ready to go” projects were identified. “Those projects are still waiting to be funded,” Horsley said.

Congressional leaders are considering a second stimulus package that could pump as much as \$150 billion into the ailing U.S. economy. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said this week that Congress will hold hearings over the next month to determine the exact price tag of the plan, and “it’s likely to include money for infrastructure projects.”

“Funding these ‘ready to go’ projects offers Congress a tremendous opportunity to put Americans to work and help cash strapped states repair and replace our crumbling infrastructure.” Horsley said.

Analysts estimate that for every \$1 billion invested in transportation projects, approximately 35 thousand jobs are created.

In addition to the highway projects, 16 states, identified by asterisk in the table below, also reported ready-to-go transit, rail, and waterways projects. Those responses indicate some 66 transit, 21 rail, and 1 waterway project that could be launched if funds were available.

| State          | Number of Projects | Dollar Amount (in millions) |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alabama        | 128                | \$671.1                     |
| Alaska         | 7                  | \$92.6                      |
| *Arizona       | 39                 | \$790.0                     |
| Arkansas       | 107                | \$728.3                     |
| California     | 28                 | \$800.0                     |
| Colorado       | 52                 | \$395.1                     |
| *Connecticut   | 20                 | \$728.5                     |
| *DC            | 1                  | \$50.0                      |
| Florida        | 5                  | \$675.0                     |
| Georgia        | 32                 | \$397.3                     |
| Hawaii         | 6                  | \$42.0                      |
| Idaho          | 11                 | \$174.8                     |
| *Illinois      | 212                | \$831.4                     |
| Indiana        |                    | \$400.0                     |
| Iowa           | 40                 | \$152.0                     |
| *Kansas        | 126                | \$68.0                      |
| Kentucky       | 4                  | \$200.0                     |
| Louisiana      | 208                | \$351.4                     |
| *Maine         | 15                 | \$94.1                      |
| *Maryland      | 32                 | \$94.6                      |
| *Massachusetts | 59                 | \$181.5                     |
| *Michigan      | 43                 | \$257.0                     |
| Minnesota      | 30                 | \$217.8                     |
| Mississippi    | 33                 | \$176.2                     |
| *Missouri      | 127                | \$546.6                     |
| Montana        | 70                 | \$116.0                     |
| Nebraska       | 5                  | \$20.0                      |
| Nevada         | 4                  | \$120.0                     |
| New Hampshire  | 11                 | \$81.3                      |
| *New Jersey    | 7                  | \$50.8                      |
| New Mexico     | 77                 | \$1,400.0                   |
| *New York      | 40                 | \$200.0                     |
| North Carolina | 44                 | \$231.4                     |
| North Dakota   | 90                 | \$71.0                      |
| *Ohio          | 114                | \$299.3                     |

|                |      |            |
|----------------|------|------------|
| Oklahoma       | 73   | \$146.4    |
| Oregon         | 50   | \$251.2    |
| *Pennsylvania  | 524  | \$1,300.0  |
| Rhode Island   | 41   | \$102.0    |
| South Carolina | 58   | \$510.0    |
| South Dakota   | 142  | \$181.0    |
| Tennessee      | 74   | \$184.1    |
| Texas          | 44   | \$1,800.0  |
| Utah           | 84   | \$425.1    |
| *Vermont       | 11   | \$62.6     |
| Virginia       | 1    | \$101.9    |
| West Virginia  | 67   | \$1,200.0  |
| *Wisconsin     | 20   | \$35.0     |
| Wyoming        | 55   | \$287.2    |
| Total          | 3071 | \$18,291.6 |

Survey conducted January 2008.

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