


James L. Oberstar

TRANSPORTATION CONSTRUCTION UNDER THE RECOVERY ACT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 26, 2009

Madam Speaker, I rise today to report that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is getting construction workers off the bench and back on the job.

The Recovery Act provides \$64.1 billion for transportation and infrastructure investments within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Nearly \$40 billion of those funds have been distributed to States by existing highway, transit, and clean water statutory formulas. Of the \$27 billion provided for highway infrastructure formula funds, in the past three weeks, 33 States have submitted and received approval for nearly 800 projects totaling \$2.9 billion, more than 10 percent of the Recovery Act highway funds.

Construction is underway across the country: Silver Spring, Maryland: \$2.1 million project to resurface and improve safety along a 1.1-mile section of New Hampshire Avenue; Syracuse, Utah: \$15 million project to widen State Highway 108; and Richmond, Vermont: \$1.7 million project to rehabilitate a bridge over the Winooski River.

In addition, the Federal Transit Administration has awarded grants to the Kentucky, Missouri, and Maine State DOTs to purchase more than 500 vehicles, including trolleys, buses, vans, and ferries and construct almost 50 bus shelters.

Amtrak has approved \$938 million of capital improvement projects: including \$105 million project to replace a moveable bridge over the Niantic River; and \$82 million to rehabilitate 68 passenger cars.

The Federal Aviation Administration has identified \$913 million of the \$1.1 billion of airport projects, including runway, taxiway, apron, and terminal improvements.

All across America, the Recovery Act is creating good, family-wage jobs to restore our nation's infrastructure and economy.