WSDOT Stimulus Update

Local News

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All states met the March 2, 2010 deadline to obligate 100% of the Recovery Act highway funds, meaning no money will be redistributed between states. WSDOT advertised two more cable median barrier projects receiving stimulus funds on March 1. To date, the agency has advertised 28 rumble strip and 13 cable median barrier projects receiving $12 million in Recovery Act funds. WSDOT and local governments continue to advance more Recovery Act projects for construction. Two more individual highway projects and one ferry terminal project were awarded this week.

This week by the numbers (project dollars in millions)

Individual highway projects

State

Local

Total

Notes

Total highway funds

$340

$152

$492

Obligated funds

$340 (100%)

$152 (100%)

$492 (100%)

All funds were obligated by

March 2, 2010

Projects certified

47 (100%)

159 (100%)

206 (100%)

All projects

are certified

Projects obligated

47 (100%)

159 (100%)

206 (100%)

All projects

are obligated

Project delivery to date

Operationally complete

21 (45%)

70 (44%)

91 (44%)

No new projects reported complete this edition

Awarded/underway1

37 (79%)

148 (93%)

185 (90%)

Includes completed projects

Advertised

47 (100%)

155 (97%)

200 (98%)

Includes completed and awarded projects

Certified, awaiting advertisment

0 (100%)

4 (3%)

4 (2%)

These projects

are planned for upcoming advertisement.

Safety funding buckets ($12 stimulus)

Rumble

Strips

Cable

median

barrier

Total

Notes

Completed

15

2

17

State stimulus funds only

Awarded

17

7

24

Includes completed projects

Advertised

28

13

41

Includes completed and awarded projects

Transit projects

Large

urban

Small

urban

Nonurban/

rural

State total

Percent of total $179 awarded

100%

100%

100%

100%

Includes Washington State Ferries projects

Number of Transit projects obligated

35 of 35

19 of 19

20 of 20

55 of 55

FTA counts all rural projects as one project

January employment

State

Local

Total

Notes

Payroll (in millions)

$2.5

$3.1

$5.6

for January

Cumulatively, $57.5 million in payroll to date

Average wage is $38 per hour

Hours

57,879

84,619

142,498

for January

Employees have worked 1,505,257 hours to date

FTEs

335

489

824

for January

FTE = 173 hours per month

Employees

1,071

2,258

3,329

for January

Note: Not a count of unique employees

1 This includes one state project that has stimulus funding authorized for pre-construction and is currently under way.

Key issues: State

Washington met the March 2 obligation target – WSDOT and local governments obligated all $492 million in Recovery Act highway funds on February 19, before the March 2 deadline to obligate 100% of the stimulus highway funds. An obligation is a commitment – the Federal government’s promise to pay the State for the Federal share of a project’s eligible cost. The commitment occurs when the project is approved by the Federal Highway Administration and the accompanying project agreement is executed. Due to favorable bids, stimulus projects are averaging well under their anticipated budgets. Surplus funds originally obligated to projects are being used to deliver additional projects. Any additional surplus funds generated due to low bids on the remaining state and local stimulus projects can be transferred to other projects by September 30, 2010.

More WSDOT safety projects advertised – WSDOT advertised two more Recovery Act highway projects on March 1, completing advertisements for the state projects receiving Recovery Act funds. The US 101/SR 3 to Perry Creek Bridge and SR 303/Vicinity Ridgetop Blvd cable median barrier installation projects are among 13 cable median barrier projects receiving stimulus funds. In addition, 28 centerline rumble strip projects have been advertised.

WSDOT and local governments awarded four more Recovery Act projects –

WSDOT – I-5/Todd RD to Kelso Weigh Station – Paving and Safety
WSDOT – I-82/Granger to Grandview EB – Dowel Bar Retrofit and Concrete Rehab
Arlington – Gifford Sidewalks
University Place – Intermodal Transit Phase 2

Two local Recovery Act projects advertised –

Bellingham – Bakerview/Hanagan
Camas – NW Ledbetter Drive

One WSDOT Recovery Act ferry terminal project awarded – WSDOT awarded contracts for a ferry terminal seismic retrofit at Vashon Island Ferry Terminal Slip 1 on March 1.

Key issues: National

All states met deadline to obligate 100% of Recovery Act funds – Vice President Joe Biden and Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced the states met the deadline to obligate all stimulus funds before March 2, 2010. The news means all $26.6 billion in Recovery Act funds for highway projects has been assigned to projects. “The states have done a great job in getting all these projects out the door, but to create more jobs and continue strengthening the economy, we have more work to do,” LaHood said in a news release.

U.S. DOT Inspector General issues two reports on stimulus reporting and accountability

– The Recovery Act included $20 million for the U.S. Department of Transportation Office of the Inspector General to review and investigate stimulus spending and procedures. U.S. DOT Inspector General Calvin L. Scovell III released two reports on stimulus activities recently, including a February 23 report on stimulus reporting to the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board and a February 19 report to Senator Mark Pryor on the office’s ongoing audits and investigations. The letter to Senator Pryor indicated 11 ongoing audits target high-risk areas of Recovery Act spending, including high-speed rail and large projects receiving more than $20 million in stimulus funds. Another 12 Recovery Act audits are planned to begin during the federal fiscal year ending September 30.

WSDOT blog is following congressional deliberations over transportation funding – The WSDOT Federal Transportation Issues blog is providing updates on the federal transportation funding act’s reauthorization in Washington, D.C.
Highlight of the week
Pavement rehabilitation project on US 195 near Spokane starts this month

Contractors for the Washington State Department of Transportation will begin construction on another project in the Eastern Region. The Recovery Act provided the funding for pavement improvements on US 195 in southwest Spokane. The work was made possible through savings on other stimulus construction projects built earlier in 2009.

On March 15, Acme Concrete Paving, Inc. of Spokane will begin work on a five-mile stretch of northbound US 195. This project installs steel "dowel bars" between the existing concrete panels in the northbound lanes. Following that, the concrete surface will be smoothed out with a diamond grinder. In addition, a number of broken concrete panels will be replaced. Acme is the prime contractor on the job with a construction bid of $2,449,266. The work will take about three months to complete.

Northbound traffic will be reduced to one lane in some areas while the work is underway. There may also be short-term restrictions at intersections when crews are working on the adjacent highway pavement.

Important dates

March 5: Deadline for obligating federal transit funds

March 9: Aberdeen Transit Facility ribbon cutting

March 20: Next performance report due to House T & I Committee

April 10: Third quarterly performance report due to OMB

Websites of interest

WSDOT ARRA website: http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/funding/stimulus

Washington recovery website: http://www.recovery.wa.gov/

Federal recovery website: http://www.recovery.gov/

FHWA recovery website: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/economicrecovery/index.htm

Federal Transit Administration recovery website: www.fta.dot.gov/recovery

Federal Rail Administration recovery website: http://www.fra.dot.gov/us/content/2153

Federal Aviation Administration recovery website: http://www.faa.gov/recovery

OMB recovery website: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/recovery_default/