



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 6a

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*Memorandum*

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: March 6, 2009

FR: Executive Director

RE: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – Advocacy Priorities

**Background**

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) into law, which enacted a \$787 billion economic recovery package calling for significant new spending as well as tax cuts. The ARRA includes \$48 billion for the U. S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT).

On February 25, 2009 the Commission adopted Resolution 3885, a \$495 million expenditure plan for the region's formula-based share of the ARRA. To allow further deliberation, the Commission deferred action on advocacy priorities for the competitive programs contained in ARRA.

**Advocacy Priorities for Non-Formula ARRA Programs**

We propose the Commission focus a regional framework on a small set of projects that would compete only for certain funding programs that were created and funded by the ARRA action. This would leave, for local action and advocacy, a number of other projects where we would take a supporting role and assist local agencies in their efforts to secure funding. A list of the funding programs is shown below in List 1.

The focus project areas we propose in order to achieve a regional, and in some cases a statewide consensus, are: projects that compete in the \$1.5 billion U.S. DOT Secretary's Discretionary Grant Program, \$8 billion High Speed Rail/Intercity Rail Grant Program, the \$750 million New Starts augmentation, and an effort to secure funding to complete the Doyle Drive project.

**List 1**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Amount</b>
DOT	U.S. DOT Secretary's Discretionary Grant Program	\$ 1.5 billion
DOT	High Speed Rail/Intercity Rail Grant Program	\$ 8 billion
DOT	New Starts	\$ 750 million
DOT	Transit Energy Efficiency	\$ 100 million
DOT	Ferry Boat/Facilities	\$ 60 million
DOT	Park Road and Parkways	\$ 170 million
NPS	National Park Service (including roads)	\$ 589 million
EPA	Diesel Emission Reduction	\$300 million
DOE	Transportation Electrification	\$400 million
DOE	Alternative Fuel Vehicles Pilot	\$300 million
FEMA	Port Security	\$150 million
FEMA	Public Transportation and Railroad Security	\$150 million
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12.5 billion</b>

Further updates to this effort will be available at the Legislation Committee meeting on March 13. We propose to recommend ARRA advocacy priorities for approval at your April meeting.



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Steve Heminger