



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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Chairman

Washington, DC 20515

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Ranking Republican Member

February 22, 2010

David Heymsfeld, Chief of Staff
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SUMMARY OF SUBJECT MATTER

TO: Republican Members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

FROM: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Republican Staff

SUBJECT: Hearing on "Recovery Act: One-Year Progress Report for Transportation and Infrastructure Investments"

PURPOSE OF HEARING

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will meet on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., in room 2167 of the Rayburn House Office Building to examine implementation progress of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5) (Recovery Act). The hearing will address implementation efforts in programs across the Committee's jurisdiction, including rail, highways, bridges, public transportation, aviation, waterways, flood control, water resource development, wastewater treatment facilities, hazardous waste clean-ups, economic development, and Federal buildings.

BACKGROUND

State of the Economy

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the unemployment rate in January 2010 was 9.7 percent. There are 14.8 million unemployed persons in the United States, for all sectors of the economy combined. However, in January, there were 2.5 million people who want to work but have given up actively looking and 8.3 million involuntary part-timer workers, for a total of 25.7 million workers who are either unemployed or underemployed. This represents 16.5% of the U.S. workforce, up from 8.8% at the start of the recession.¹

Of the 14.8 million unemployed workers in this country, 6.3 million (41.2%) have been jobless for over six months. In January, the average unemployment spell was 30.2

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor (February 2010).

weeks and the median unemployment spell was 19.9 weeks, with the mean representing a record high.²

Real Cost of the Stimulus Bill

As of January 31, 2010, about \$453 billion in spending and tax cuts from the Stimulus Bill had been obligated, according to a report released from Vice President Biden's office. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated the total cost of the stimulus legislation to be \$862 billion, higher than the initial cost of \$787 billion.³

OMB Issued New Job Creation Guidance Due to Recipient Confusion

On December 18, 2010, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued updated guidance on how Stimulus funding recipients should report statutorily mandated information, such as job creation.⁴ The new guidance changes the definitions of jobs created or *retained*. Previous guidance attempted to make a distinction between existing jobs and jobs that would not have existed were it not for the Stimulus Bill. The updated guidance, in an attempt to mask the disparity between projected and actual job creation, now merges both jobs 'created or retained' together to claim that any job funded by the Stimulus Bill, even jobs which arguably would have existed regardless of the Stimulus, should be credited towards this legislation.

STIMULUS IMPLEMENTATION BY AGENCY

U.S. Department of Transportation

Total: \$ 48.1 billion

Allocated (Obligated): \$ 35 billion

Spent (Outlaid): \$ 8.8 billion (18% of total DOT ARRA funds)⁵

EPA

Total: \$ 4.7 bill

Allocated (Obligated): \$ 4.6 bill

Spent (Outlay): \$ 614 mill (13% of total EPA ARRA funds)

General Services Administration

Total: \$5.5 billion

Allocated (Obligation): \$ 2.1 billion

Spent (Outlaid): \$ 184 million (3% of total GSA ARRA funds)

CORPS

Total: \$4.6 billion

² Ibid.

³ "Obama Administration Marks Anniversary of Stimulus Legislation," Bloomberg Business Week (02/17/10).

⁴ http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/memoranda_2010/m10-08.pdf

⁵ As of February 22, 2010.

Allocated (Obligated): \$ 3 billion
Spent (Outlaid): \$ 931 million (20% of total Corps ARRA funds)

EDA

Total: \$150 million
Allocated (Obligated): \$ 147 million
Spent (Outlaid): \$ 5.3 mill (3% of total EDA ARRA funds)

U.S. Coast Guard

Total: \$240 million
Allocated (Obligated): \$ 155 mill
Spent (Outlaid): \$ 481,646 (.2% of total Coast Guard ARRA funds)

Amtrak

Total: \$1.3 billion
Allocated (Obligated): \$ 1.1 billion
Spent (Outlaid): \$ 120 million (9% of total Amtrak ARRA funds)

WITNESSES

The Honorable John D. Porcari
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation

Mr. Craig E. Hooks
Assistant Administrator for Administration and Resources Management
Environmental Protection Agency

Mr. Robert A. Peck
Commissioner of Public Buildings
General Services Administration

Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Mr. John Fernandez
Assistant Secretary for Economic Development
U.S. Department of Commerce

Mr. Martin J. Rajk
Deputy Assistant Commandant for Resources and Deputy Chief Financial Officer
U.S. Coast Guard

Mr. Thomas C. Carper
Chairman of the Board
Amtrak

TIGER Grant Distribution

State	Amount of TIGER Grant (* - at least one grant shared with other states)	Combined Amount of TIGER Grants	Unemployment Rate
NORTH DAKOTA	\$0	Lowest Unemployment - \$141.8 million	4.4
NEBRASKA	\$0		4.7
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$10 million		4.7
IOWA	\$14.1 million		6.6
KANSAS	\$25 million		6.6
OKLAHOMA	\$49.5 million		6.6
MONTANA	\$15.5 million		6.7
UTAH	\$0		6.7
HAWAII	\$24.5 million		6.9
VERMONT	\$3.2 million		6.9
VIRGINIA	\$19.6 million*	Top Half Lowest Unemployment - \$456 million (or 30% of total TIGER grants)	6.9
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$0		7.0
MINNESOTA	\$35 million		7.4
COLORADO	\$10 million		7.5
LOUISIANA	\$45 million		7.5
MARYLAND	\$44.1 million*		7.5
WYOMING	\$6 million		7.5
ARKANSAS	\$5 million*		7.7
MAINE	\$14 million		8.3
NEW MEXICO	\$31 million		8.3
TEXAS	\$43 million		8.3
WISCONSIN	\$21.5 million		8.7
ALASKA	\$3.6 million		8.8
CONNECTICUT	\$0		8.9
PENNSYLVANIA	\$36 million*		8.9
DELAWARE	\$0	54.8% of TIGER grants distributed to States with unemployment lower than National Average (9.7%) - \$822 million	9.0
NEW YORK	\$83 million		9.0
ARIZONA	\$63 million		9.1
IDAHO	\$0		9.1
WEST VIRGINIA	\$30.3 million*		9.1
MASSACHUSETTS	\$95.5 million		9.4
WASHINGTON	\$65 million		9.5
MISSOURI	\$30 million*		9.6
INDIANA	\$30 million*	9.9	
NEW JERSEY	\$11.5 million*	10.1	
GEORGIA	\$0	10.3	
MISSISSIPPI	\$20 million	10.6	
KENTUCKY	\$15.8 million*	10.7	
OHIO	\$44.5 million*	10.9	
TENNESSEE	\$58.3 million*	10.9	
ALABAMA	\$52.5 million*	11.0	
OREGON	\$23.2 million	Highest Unemployment - \$442.5 million (29.5% of total TIGER grants)	11.0
ILLINOIS	\$128 million		11.1
NORTH CAROLINA	\$10 million		11.2
FLORIDA	\$0		11.8
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	\$19.6 million*		12.1
CALIFORNIA	\$130 million		12.4
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$20 million		12.6
RHODE ISLAND	\$22.3 million		12.9
NEVADA	\$34.4 million		13.0
MICHIGAN	\$55 million		14.6
TOTAL	\$1.498 billion		