

August 10, 2009

Houston Area Congressional Delegation
XXX office building
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Representative _____:

I am writing to update you on the implementation of transportation portions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 ("Recovery Act") in the Houston area.

The Recovery Act included almost \$509 million for highway and bridge improvements in the eight county Houston metropolitan region. Of that amount approximately \$150 million was sub-allocated for project selection by the Houston-Galveston area's Transportation Policy Council (TPC), our region's Metropolitan Planning Organization. The balance of the highway portion of Recovery Act funds (\$359 million) resulted from the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) selection of projects located in our area. The Recovery Act also provides almost \$105 million to transit providers in our region through federal grants or contracts with TxDOT.

Several important milestones have already been reached in implementing Recovery Act funded projects. The Texas Department of Transportation surpassed its June, 2009 goal of letting 50% of the Recovery Act funds allocated on a statewide basis. Since the March, 2009 approval of Recovery Act projects by the Transportation Policy Council, \$84.4 million of the highway maintenance and construction projects for the Houston-Galveston area have been let to contract. This total includes \$22.5 million for projects selected by the TPC as part of the \$150 million sub-allocation. Of the \$105 million made available for transit, more than \$97 million has been awarded through grant agreements with the Federal Transit Administration.

Please find enclosed tables which provide both a summary of highway and transit Recovery Act dollars to our region and the specific projects currently selected. Project lettings are expected to accelerate as the fall approaches for both highway and transit projects. The most current information on the status of Recovery Act projects in our region may be found on the Houston-Galveston Area Council web site at:

<http://www.h-gac.com/taq/stimulus/docs/StimulusSummary.pdf>

I hope you find this update helpful. Please let me know if you have any questions on this or other transportation matters. I can be reached at my desk at 713.993.4585.

Sincerely,

Alan Clark
MPO Director