

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) UPDATE
Roadway and Bridge Program

Background

Under the provisions of the ARRA signed by the President on February 17, 2009, the State of Texas received a \$2.25 billion allocation for Roadways and Bridges with a \$150 million allocation for the Houston metropolitan planning organization (MPO). Subsequently, at its February meeting, the Transportation Policy Council approved a program of projects for the MPO allocation and gave its concurrence to a program of projects for statewide funding and selection by the Texas Transportation Commission. The TPC also approved a list of contingency projects for both the MPO and statewide lists should additional funding become available or one or more selected projects experience delays preventing the use of ARRA funds.

In the past two months, the TPC has approved ARRA funding for projects on both the State and the MPO contingency lists due to cost under-runs on projects that have been let to contract and the removal of SH 99, Segment E, from the list of funded projects.

Current Situation

At its October meeting the TPC approved a list of local rehabilitation and maintenance projects for inclusion on the MPO contingency list. The 39 projects were approved in rank order and totaled \$64 million. The TPC added the Clinton Drive rehabilitation project as the first priority on the local rehabilitation and maintenance list bringing the total to \$69 million. Clinton Drive is a priority due to the urgency of the PM_{2.5} designation discussed at the October TPC meeting.

TxDOT is currently working with local governments to process 24 projects (down through number 25 on this list) for a March 2010 letting. With the estimates provided to date, TxDOT is projecting these projects to cost approximately \$15.4 million, effectively utilizing all of the available \$15.47 million funding. These estimates may be further refined as these projects proceed through the review process. The projects that are being processed for letting include plans from the City of Houston, City of Cleveland, City of Galveston, City of Pasadena, Harris County, Montgomery County, and Fort Bend County.

Next Steps

Because of the potential for additional cost underruns, staff will transmit administrative amendments to TxDOT requesting programming of the remainder of the MPO selected local maintenance projects which are still eligible for funding.

Action Requested

For information only